

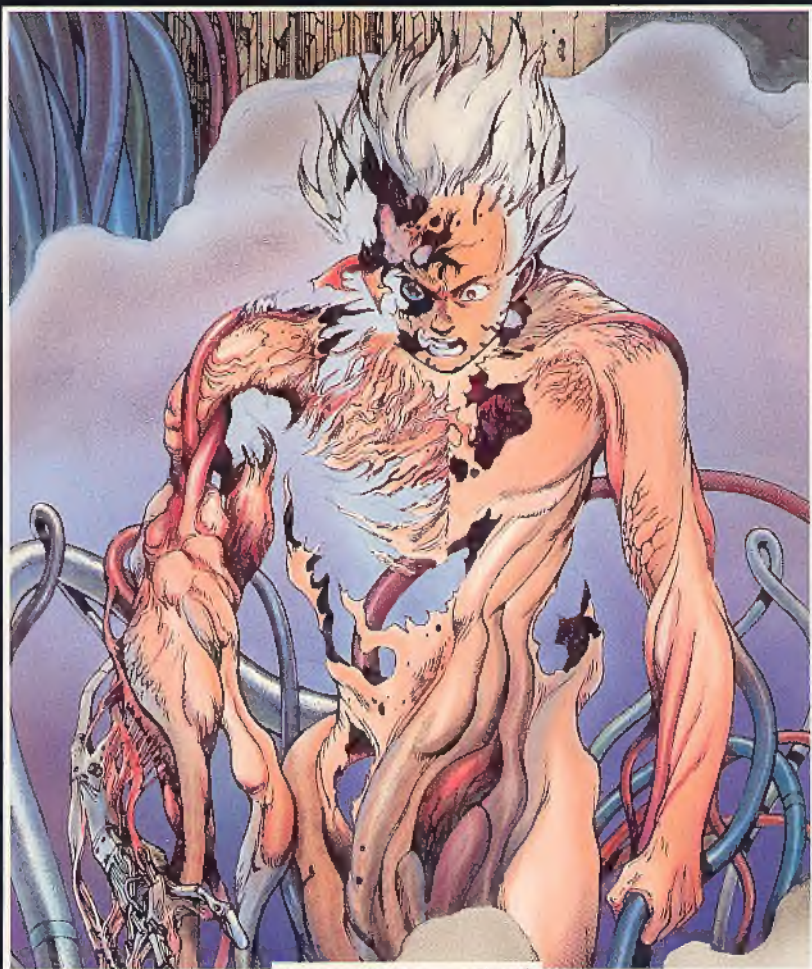
AKIRA

30

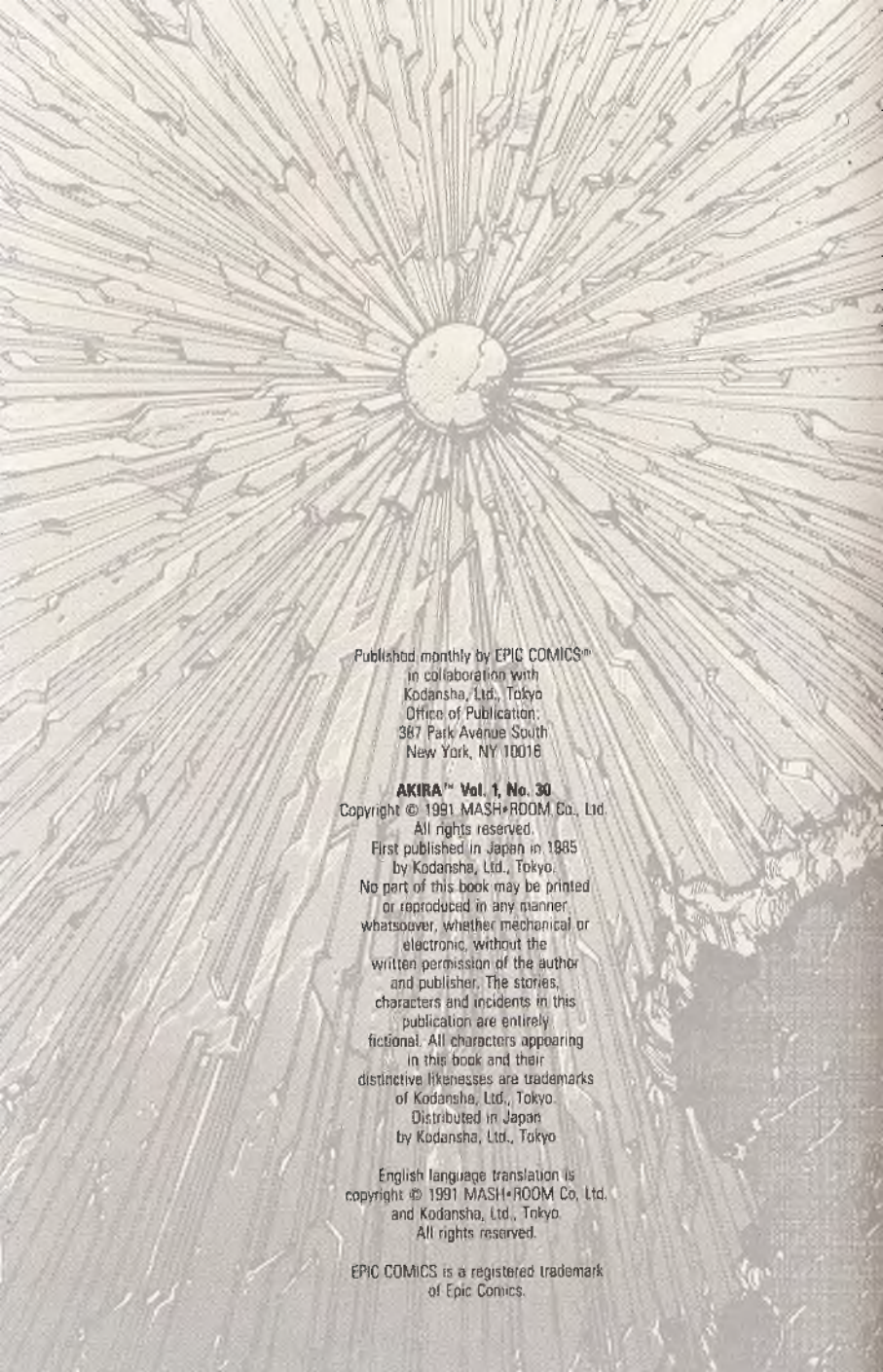
TM



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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 30

ARMS RACE

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, one-time leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—led by a man known only as the **Colonel**—and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**.

Under his control, the **Colonel** had a number of psychic children, each one identified by a number tattooed on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**—Numbers 25 and 27—and the blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—who once led the resistance and now heads a great religious

cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo**, once Kaneda's friend, now his greatest enemy. **Tetsuo** was crippled by a laser blast from the military satellite **SOL**, which the **Colonel** controlled, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate for himself a prosthetic left arm.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28—

Akira—a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in a cryogenic sleep almost forty years ago, when, with a mental blast, he started the Third World War. He was recently reawakened by the jealous and ambitious **Tetsuo**, and shortly thereafter, he responded to an emotional trauma by again devastating the reconstructed city of Neo-Tokyo. Now Japan exists in a state of emergency, with the forces of the army and the resistance scattered, the military's formidable "caretaker robots" patrolling the streets, and new powers and allegiances arising within.

In the western part of the Neo-Tokyo, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing



Kiyoko



Kaori



The Colonel



Kai



their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. To increase the empire's power, **Tetsuo** uses drugs and training to develop psychic abilities in some of their subjects. Most faithful among their numerous followers is Tetsuo's aide who is determined at all costs to destroy **Lady Miyako**, who offers sanctuary to anyone who comes to her eastern shrine.

The Empire is infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside world, but all of them except **Lieutenant Yamada**—who takes temporary shelter with **Ryu**—are killed. **Ryu** wants to join with and help **Yamada**, but soon after **Tetsuo** meets the pair and reveals that **Yamada** has come to kill **Akira**, the spy decides to separate from his persistent would-be ally and go his own way.

The **Colonel** is wounded,

living in hiding with one of his scientists, determined to kill **Tetsuo** to atone for what he has brought about. He believes **Tetsuo** could become another **Akira**. However, military forces outside Neo-Tokyo are trying by computer to wrestle control of SQL from him. At the same time, **Tetsuo**, acting upon advice from **Lady Miyako**, is trying to master his own weaknesses.

Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists studying the **Akira** phenomenon—which they've codenamed **Juvenile A**—are aghast to learn that, despite their recommendations, the world's armies have amassed an **Akira Assassination Corps**, and are even more upset by the knowledge that the young and dedicated soldiers are sure to be slaughtered by the



Chiyoko



Ryu



Joker



Lt. Yamada

inconceivable might of their enemy. The admiral commanding the ship scoffs when the scientists tell him that **Tetsuo** has teleported aboard to taunt his "fan club", refusing to be convinced even by the telekinetic havoc, death and injury the boy left in his wake. One of the scientists —

Stanley Simmons—leaves the ship without authorization, hoping desperately to implant a secret plan.

Meanwhile, **Lady Miyako**, **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** try to convince **Kay** to join them in battle against **Tetsuo**. Even though **Kay** lacks native psychic abilities, she is a powerful medium through whom the others could project their powers and strike as one. **Lady Miyako** explains that Akira's personality has been destroyed by his power, leaving him a passive vessel, and that when Tetsuo's character is likewise eroded, he too will be beyond control. **Kay** considers Tetsuo's most recent action—destroying part of the moon and setting off geological cataclysms on earth merely to impress his and Akira's followers—and she agrees to be purified and join the others.

Kaneda, who's teamed up with **Kai** and **Joker** — a

friend and a rival from his gang days—is outraged to learn of the risk **Miyako** has talked **Kay** into taking. He vows to kill **Tetsuo** himself rather than let her face such danger. Then, at long last, he kisses **Kay** and promises her that they'll spend the night together when they next meet.

Kaneda, **Kai** and **Joker** formulate a strategy involving most of their men, as well as such state-of-the-art weapons as they've salvaged, including laser rifles, flying platforms, and one caretaker robot.

Following his huge expenditure of power, **Tetsuo** begins to lose control, and his artificial arm assumes a grossly mutated form. He runs amok, killing any of his followers who comes too close, until **Kaori** is able to calm him. After a brief encounter with the **Colonel**, **Tetsuo** again teleports to the ship, where **Karma Tangi**—a wise and sensitive monk — warns him that his power has grown beyond what his body can contain and that it is now trying to absorb its very surroundings. Fearing for his ship, the admiral shoots the boy through the heart... and **Tetsuo** departs laughing madly.



Kay



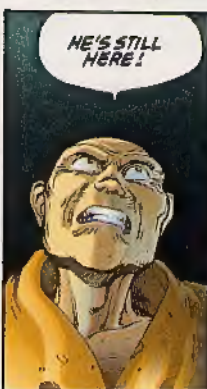
Akira

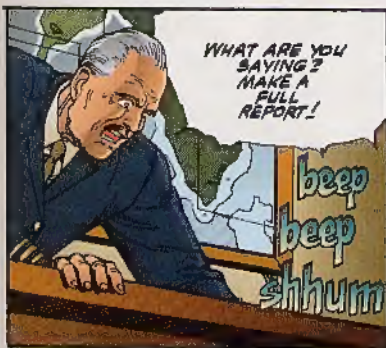


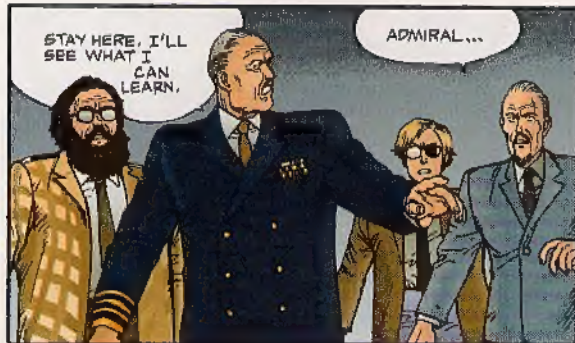
Tetsuo

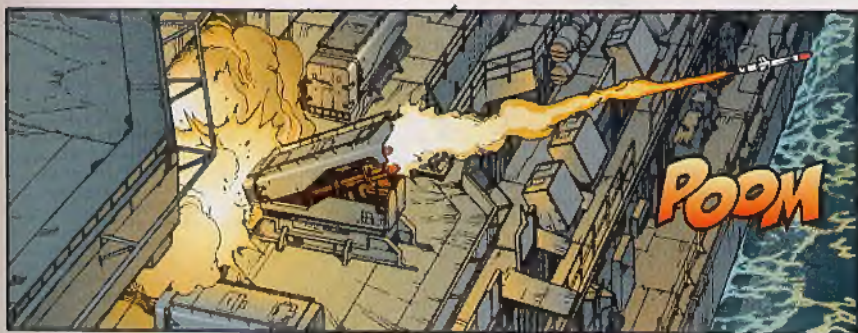
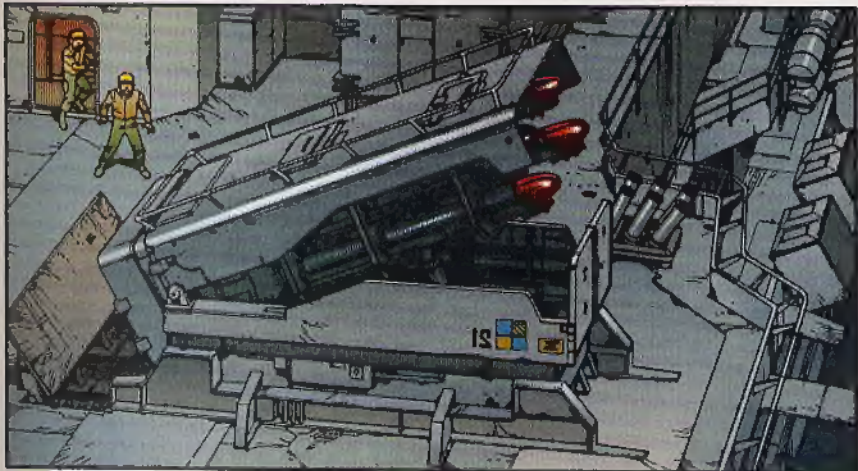


Masaru

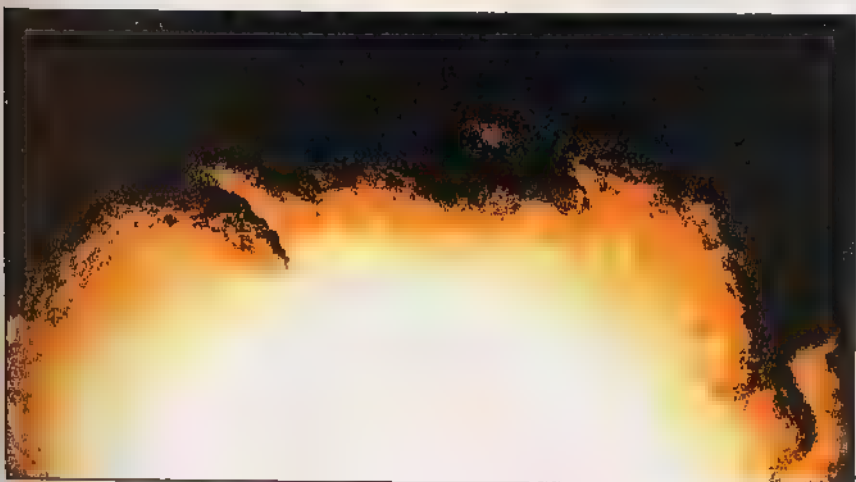






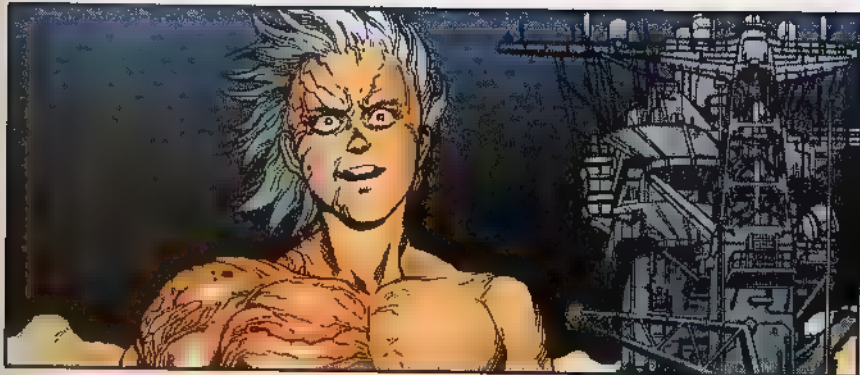




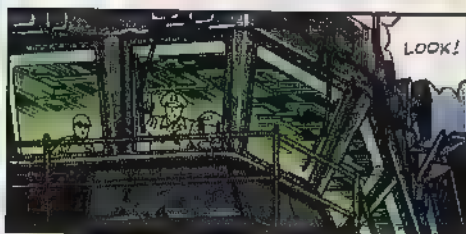


GONGONGONG





Gooong

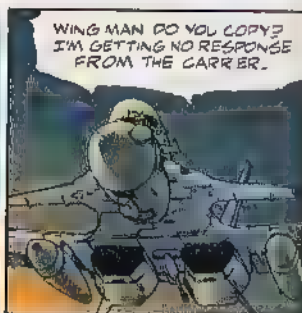


A TRAINING PLANE
IS COMING
BACK IN!





WHAT IN...?!



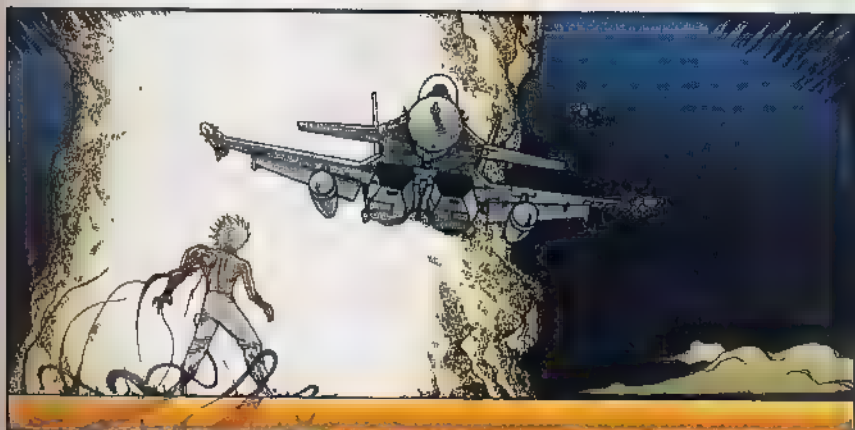
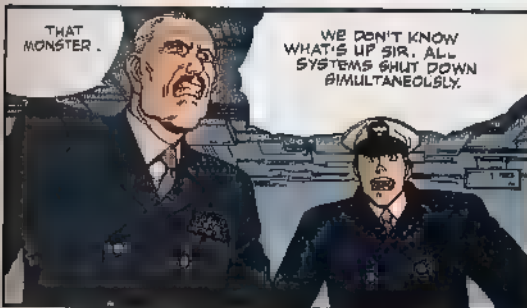
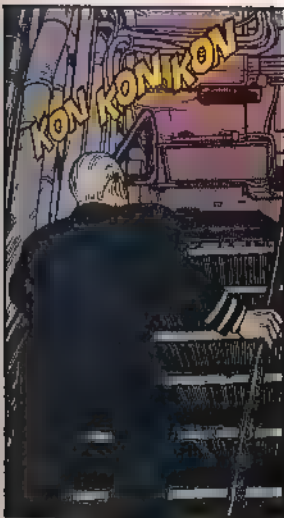
WING MAN DO YOU COPY?
I'M GETTING NO RESPONSE
FROM THE CARRIER.

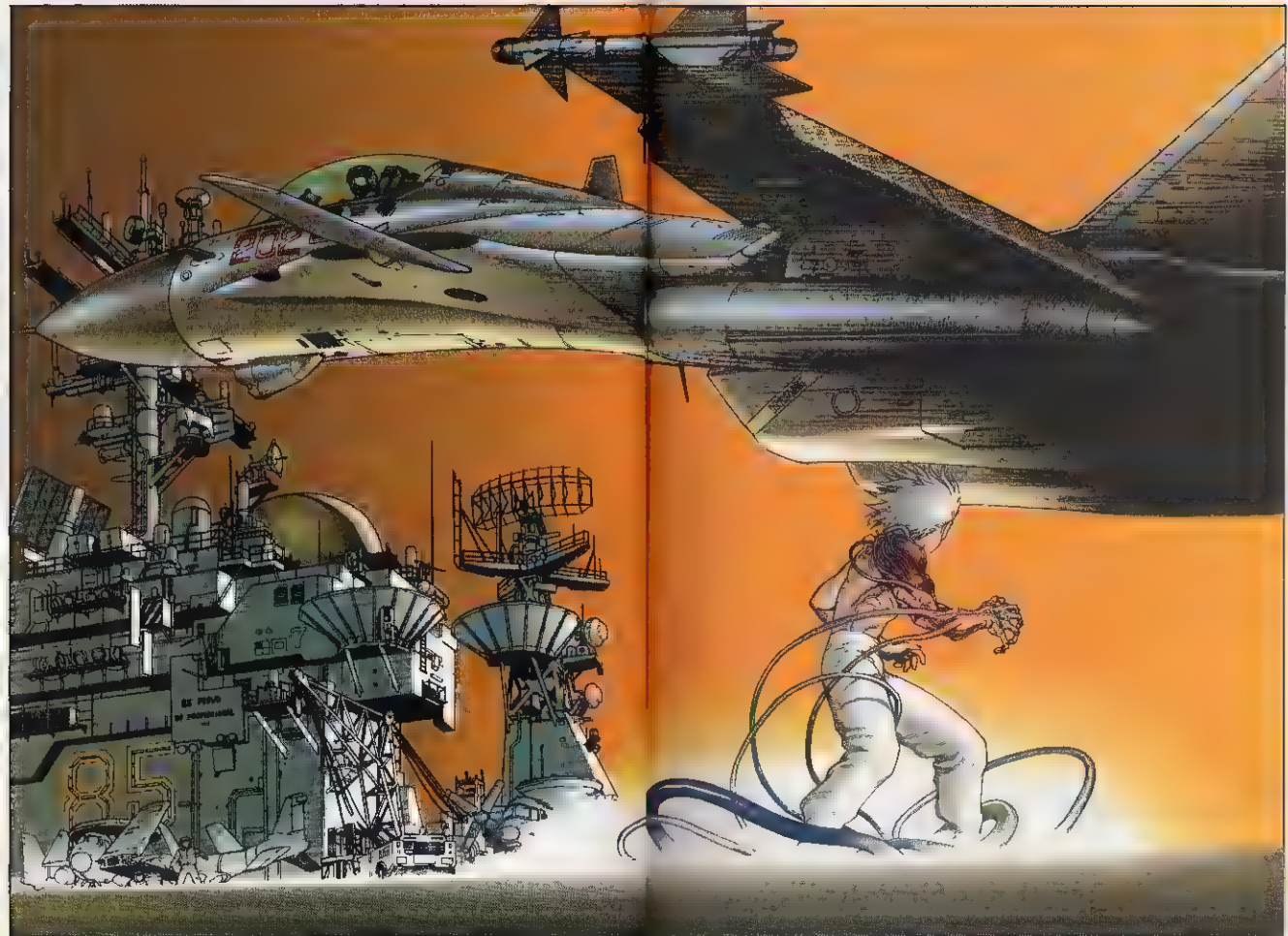


THERE ARE NO READINGS
ON EMERGENCY
FREQUENCIES!

WHAT IN
HELL HAPPENED TO
'EM?

BETTER CALL
OKINAWA.







THERE HE IS!

SIGNAL THEM WITH A HAND BEACON.



SIR...?

**LOOK!
IT'S HIM! THE
MONSTER! DON'T
YOU SEE HIM?!**



IT'S WHO, SIR?



**HE IS THE
ONE WHO
CAUSED
THIS!**

**DON'T
ASK
QUESTIONS!
JUST
KILL
HIM!**



CALL SECURITY!

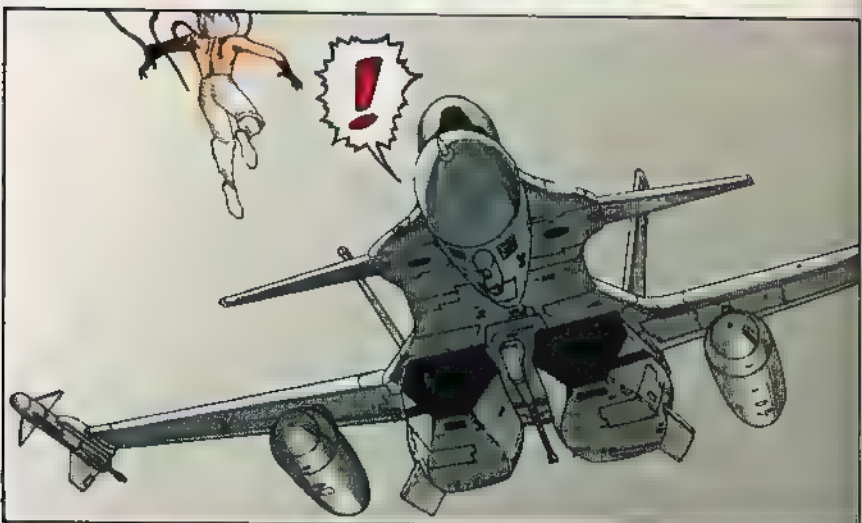
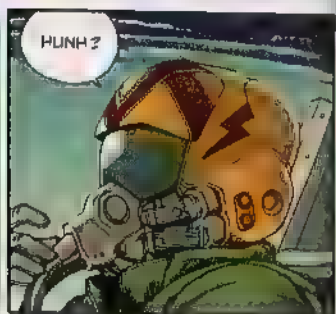
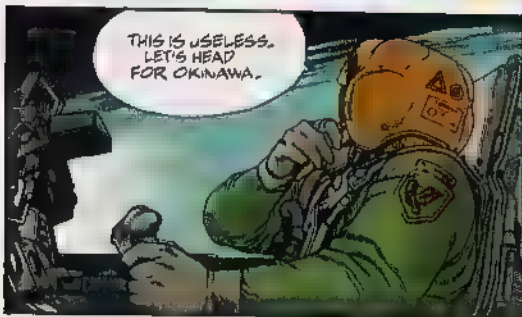
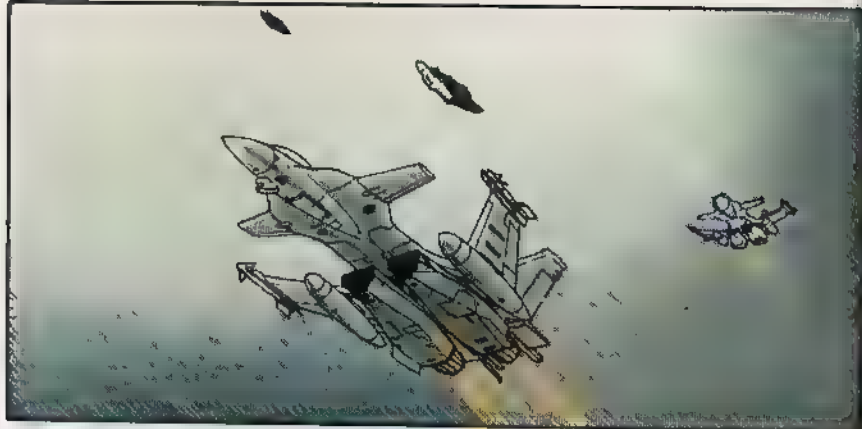
**FORGET THE
RADIO!
GO IN
PERSON!**

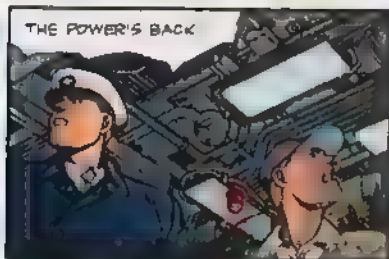
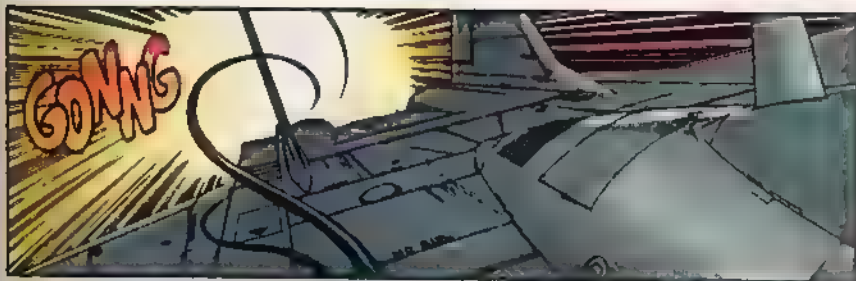


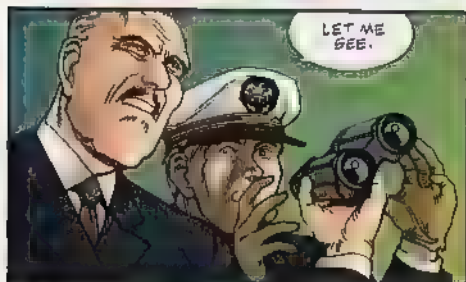
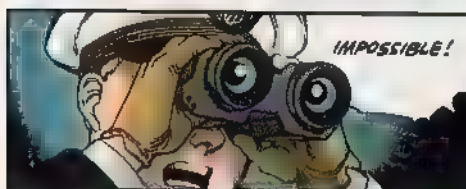
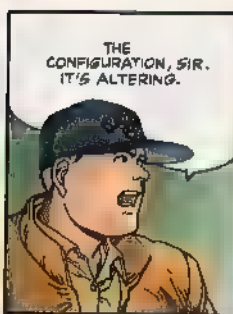
FWDOM



GONE!







**THAT
BASTARD!**



**NO WONDER WE REGAINED
CONTROL OF THE SHIP!**

?



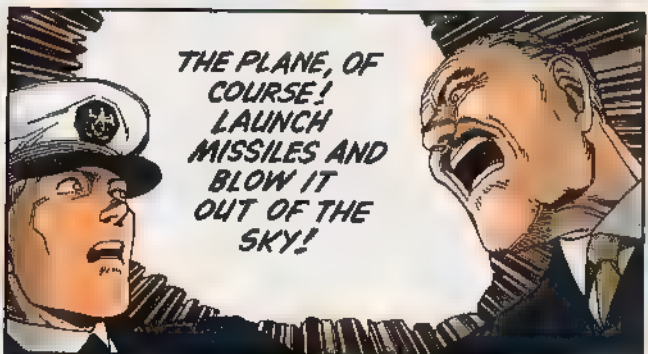
**ATTACK AT
ONCE!**



**ATTACK WHAT
S R?**



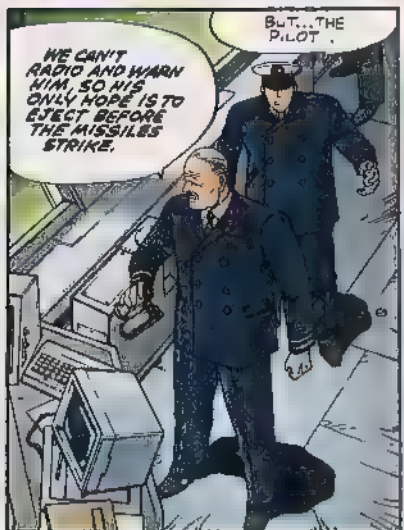
**THE PLANE, OF
COURSE!
LAUNCH
MISSILES AND
BLOW IT
OUT OF THE
SKY!**



**IT'S OUR PLANE,
SIR...
JUST BACK
FROM
TRAINING**



**WE CAN'T
RADIO AND WARN
HIM, SO HIS
ONLY HOPE IS TO
EJECT BEFORE
THE MISSILES
STRIKE.**

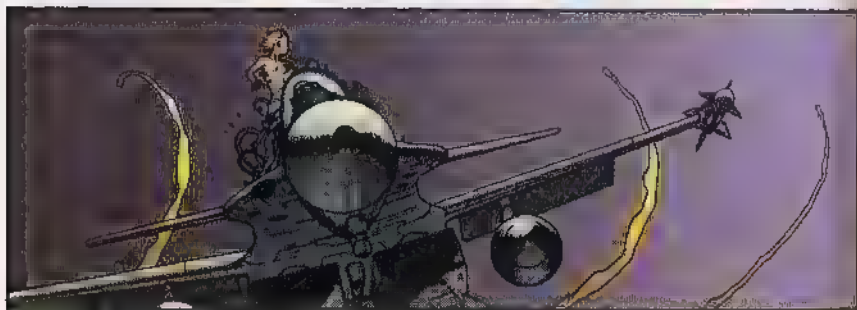
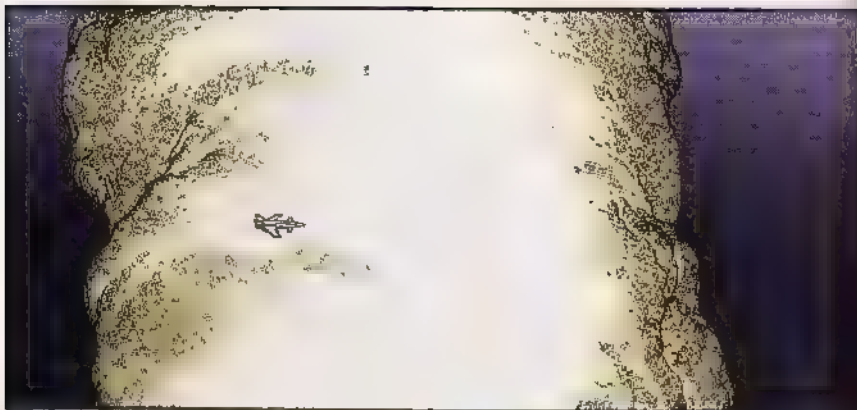


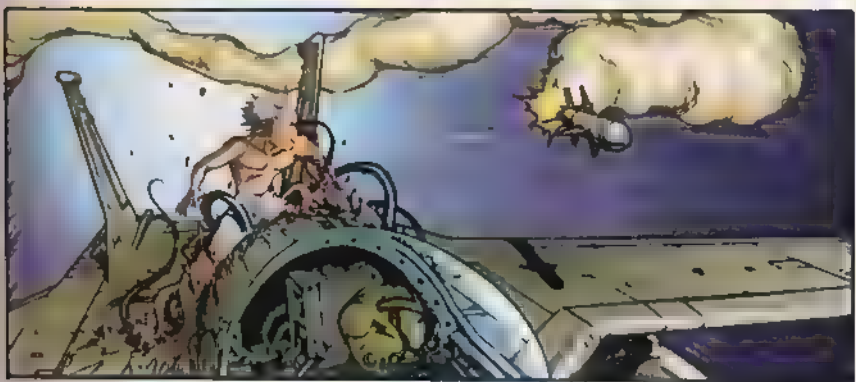
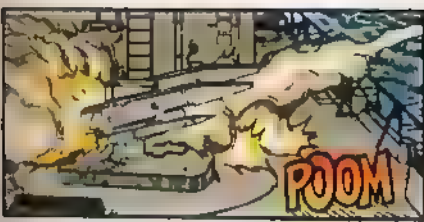
**BUT...THE
PILOT**

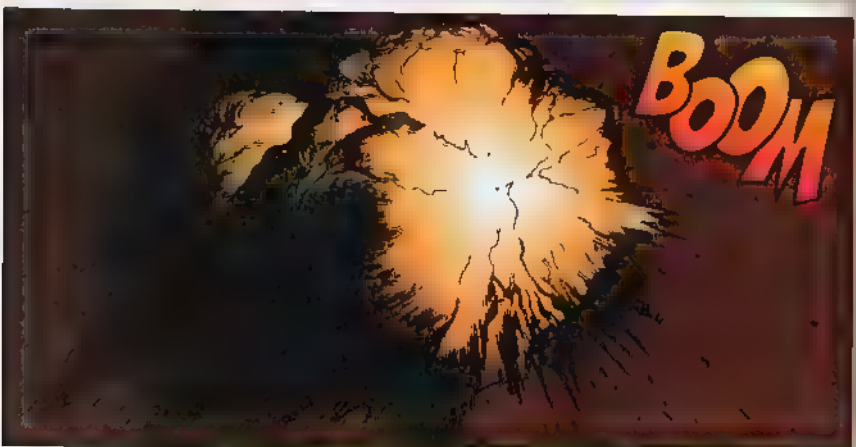
**THAT
PLANE
IS
POSSESSED!**

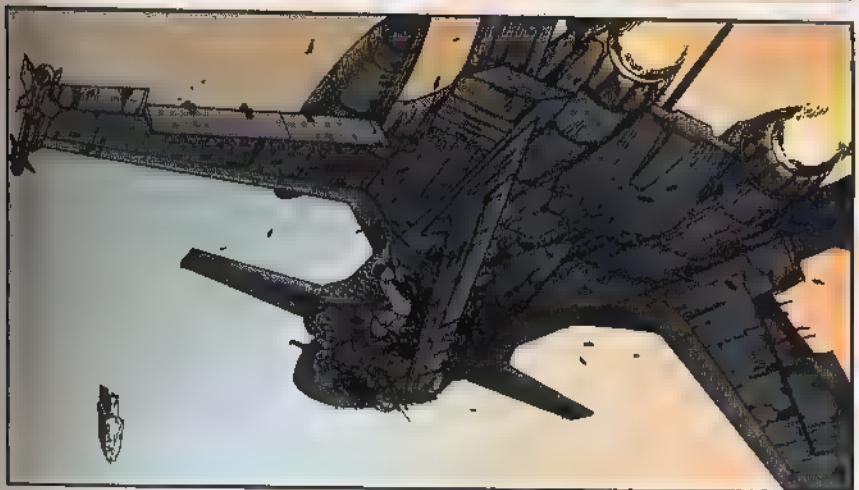
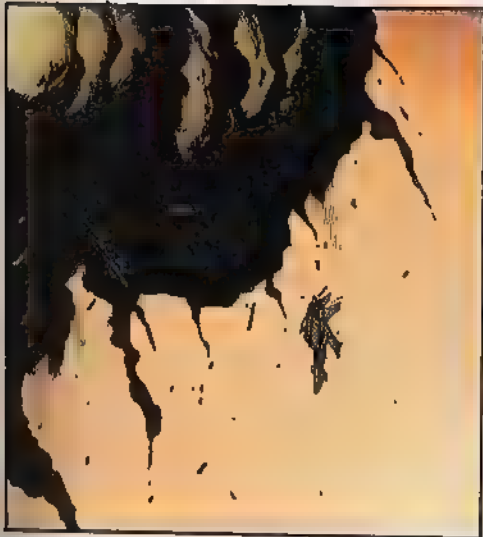
**I'LL ASSUME
FULL
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR
ITS
DESTRUC-
TION!**







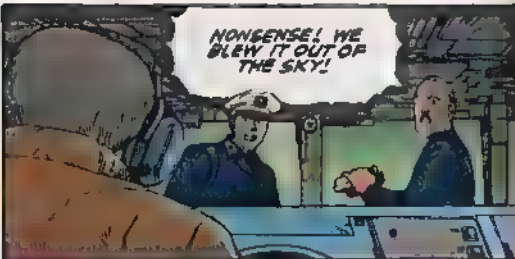




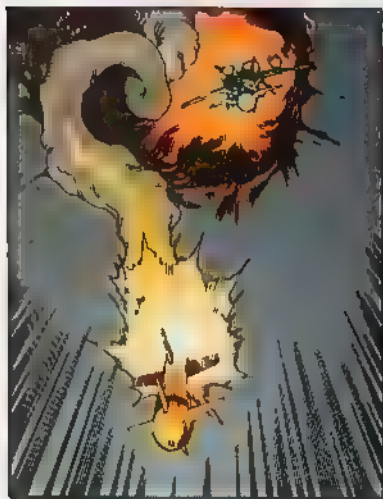
LIEUTENANT!
THE
PLANE IS
TURNING ON US!



NONSENSE! WE
BLEW IT OUT OF
THE SKY!



SHWUP



BOOM



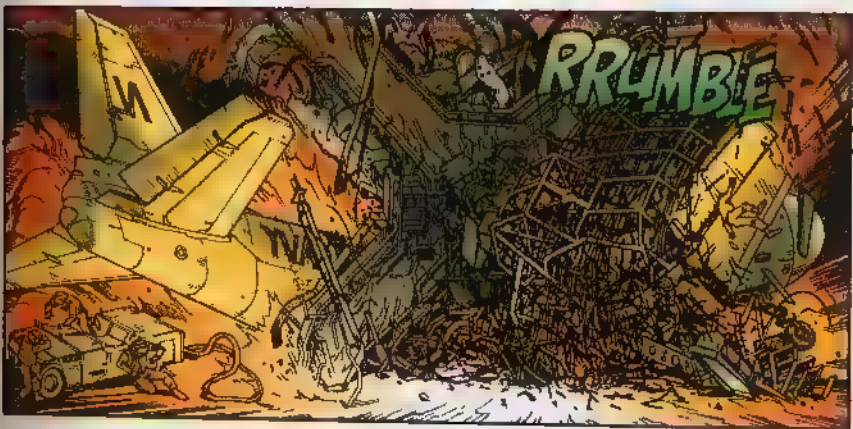
MISSILE
APPROACH-
ING!

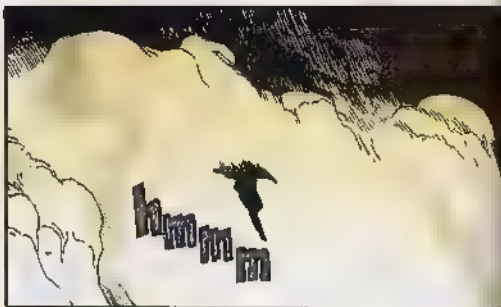
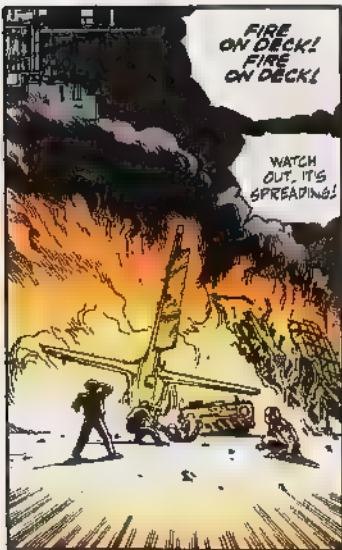


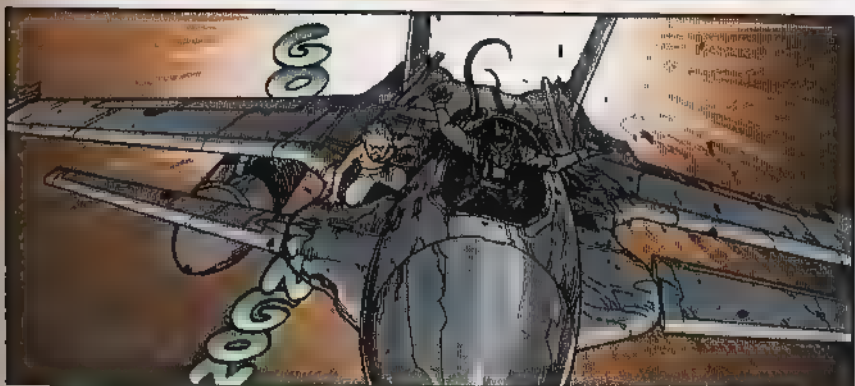
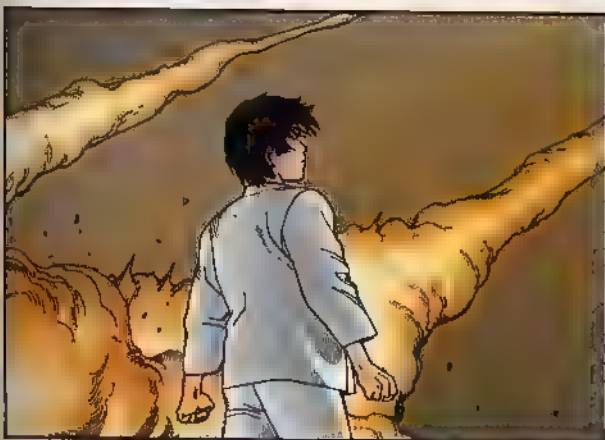
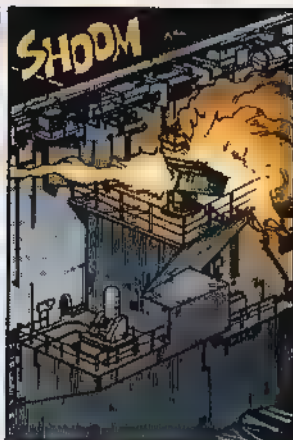
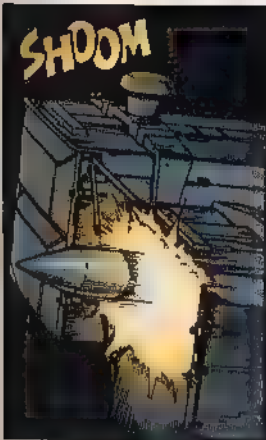
THE MISSILE STRUCK THE
COMMUNICATIONS ANTENNA
LOCATED ON THE AFT MAST

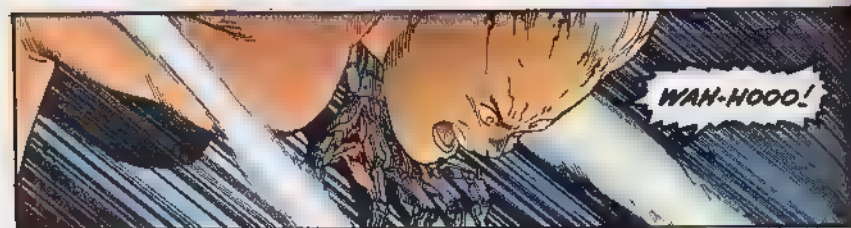
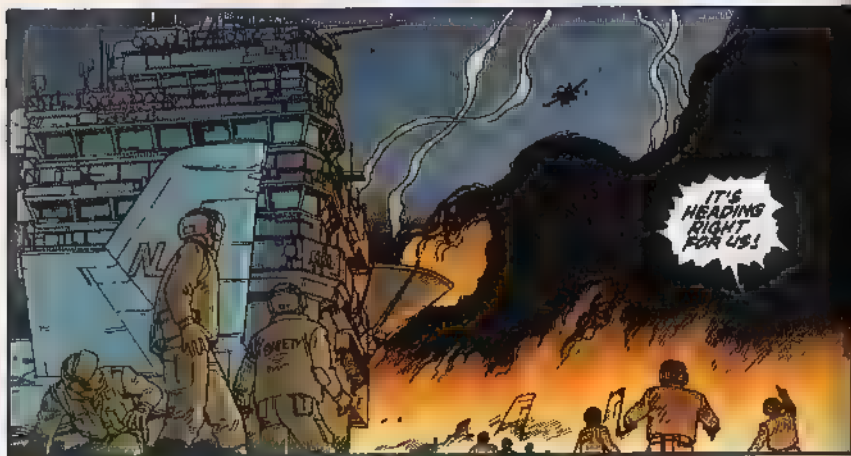
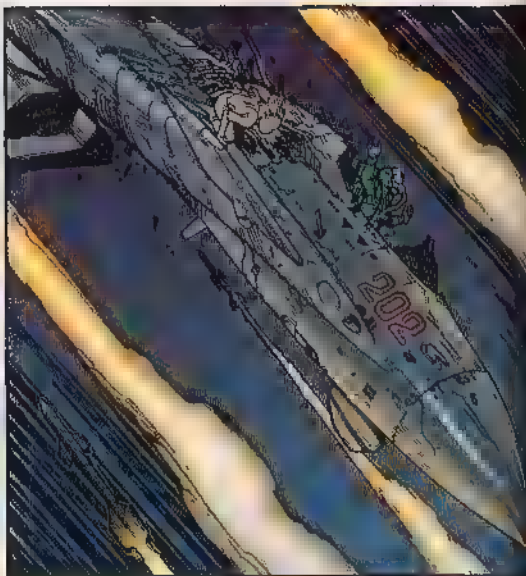
FIRE TEAM, MEDICS TO
ELEVATOR THREE

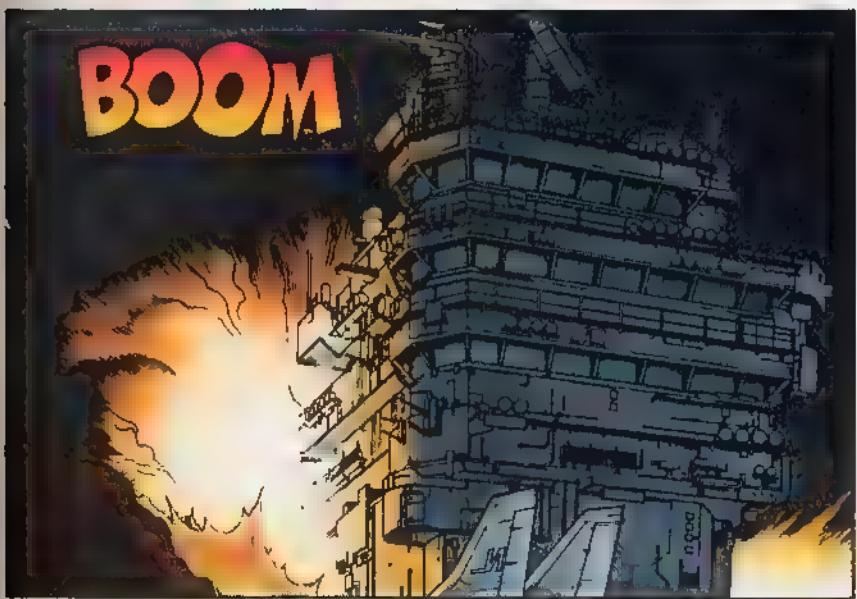
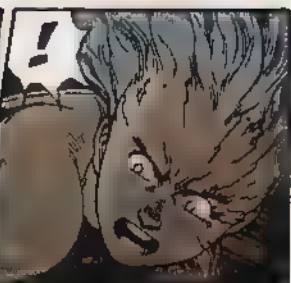
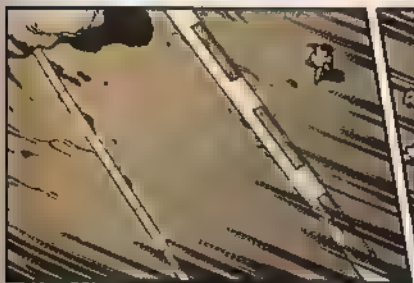
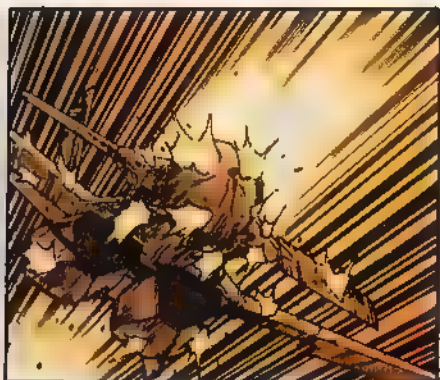
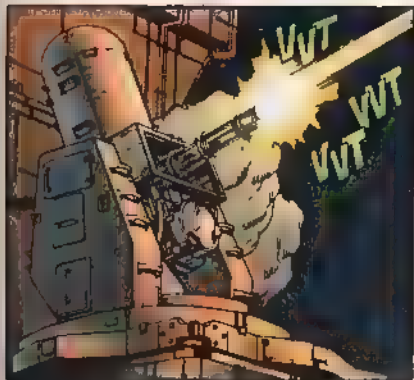
AOOGA
AOOGA

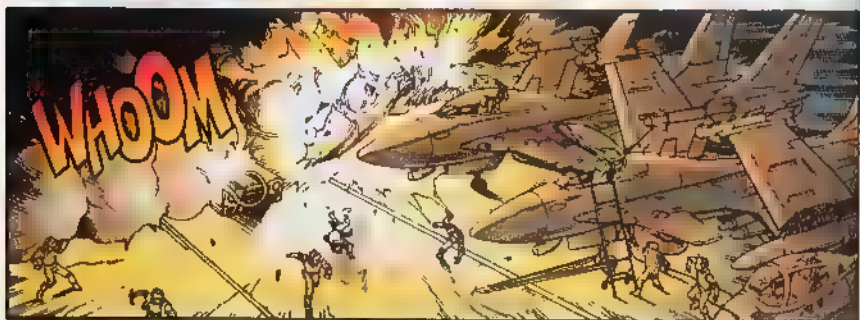
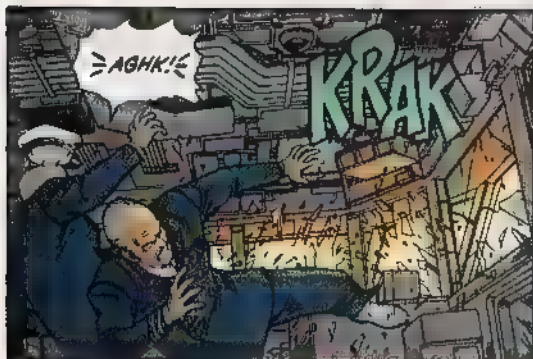


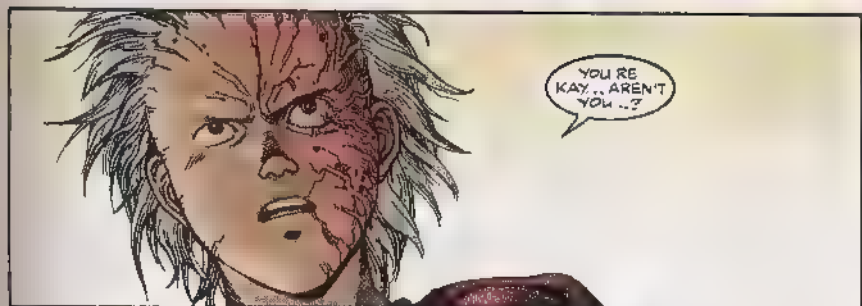
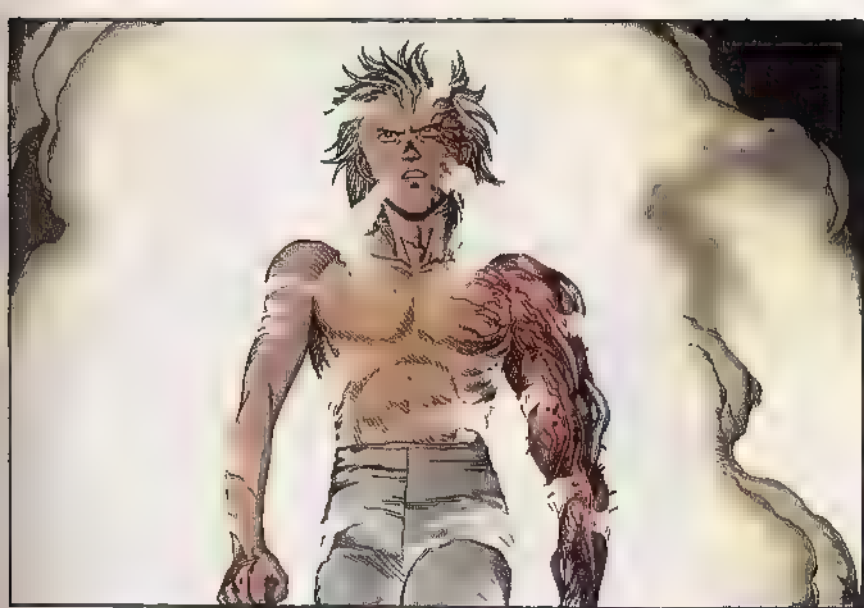




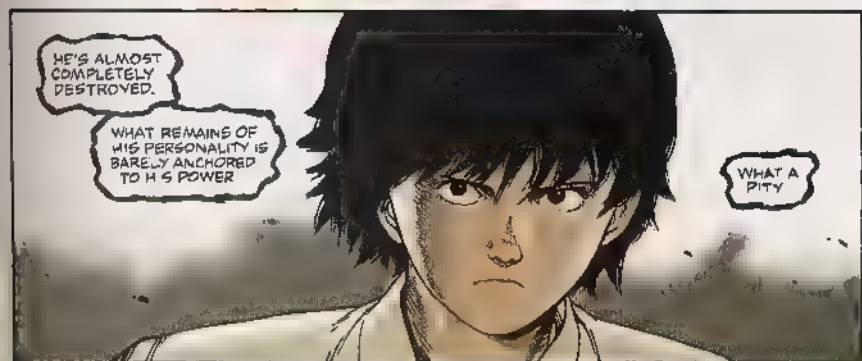








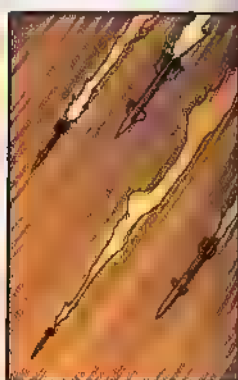
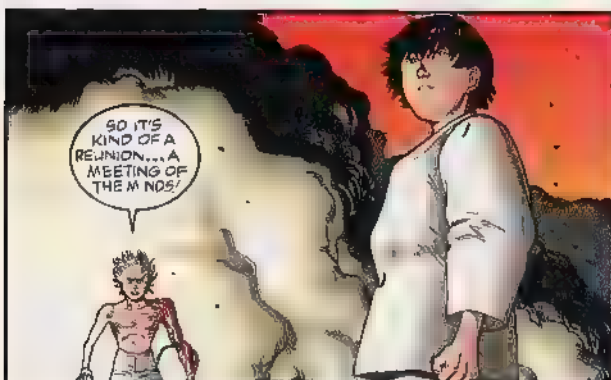
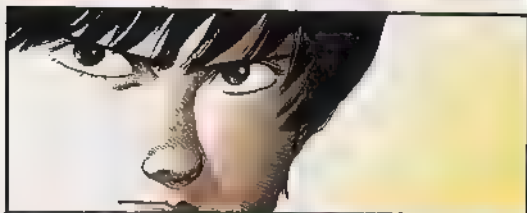
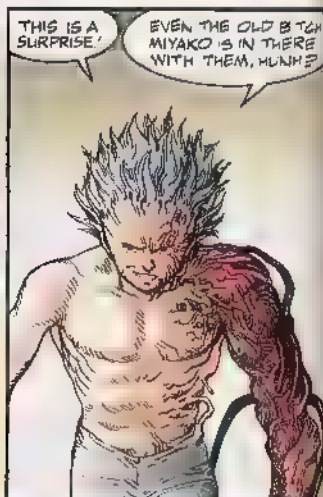
YOU'RE
KAY... AREN'T
YOU...?



HE'S ALMOST
COMPLETELY
DESTROYED.

WHAT REMAINS OF
HIS PERSONALITY IS
BARELY ANCHORED
TO HIS POWER

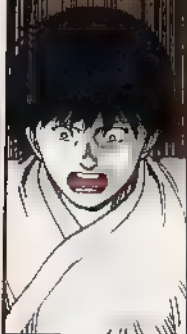
WHAT A
PITY



THIS IS THE WRONG
PLACE FOR A SHOWDOWN
TOO MANY INNOCENT
PEOPLE COULD
BE HURT

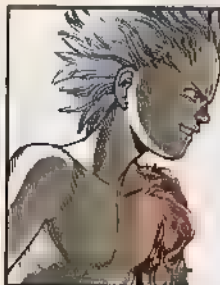


YEEK--!

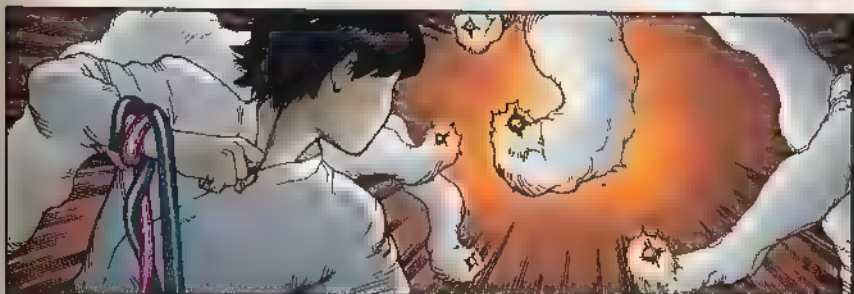
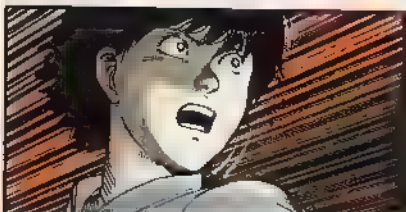


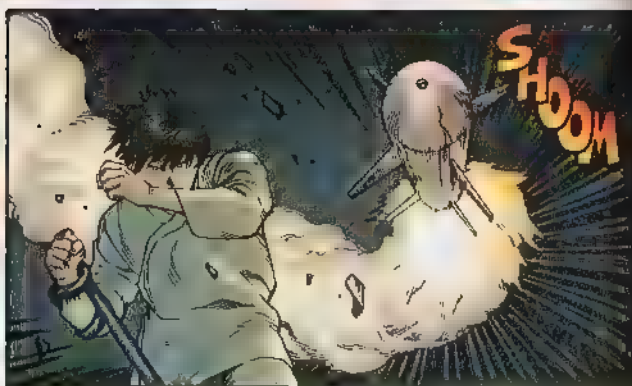
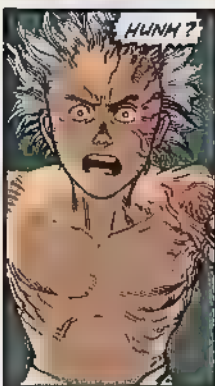
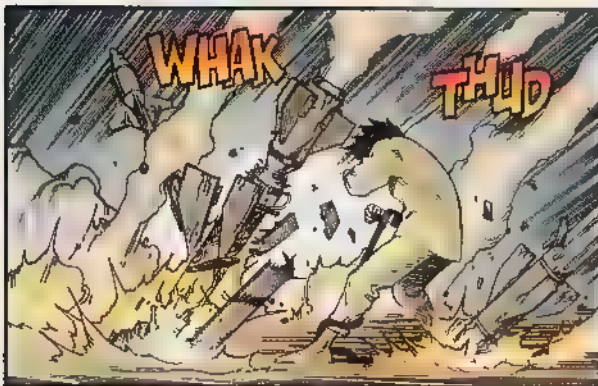
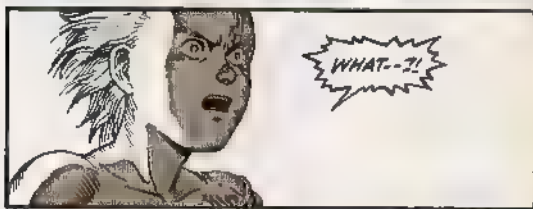
COMPOSE
YOUR THOUGHTS,
KAY

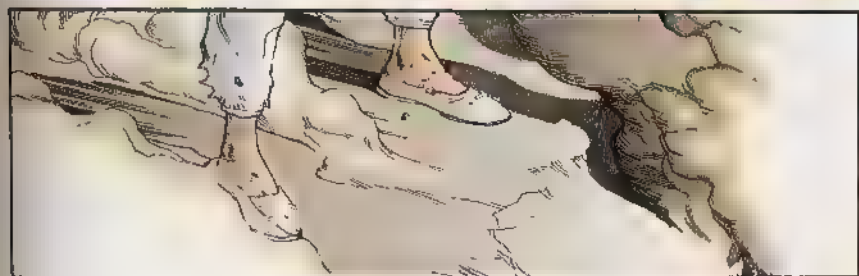
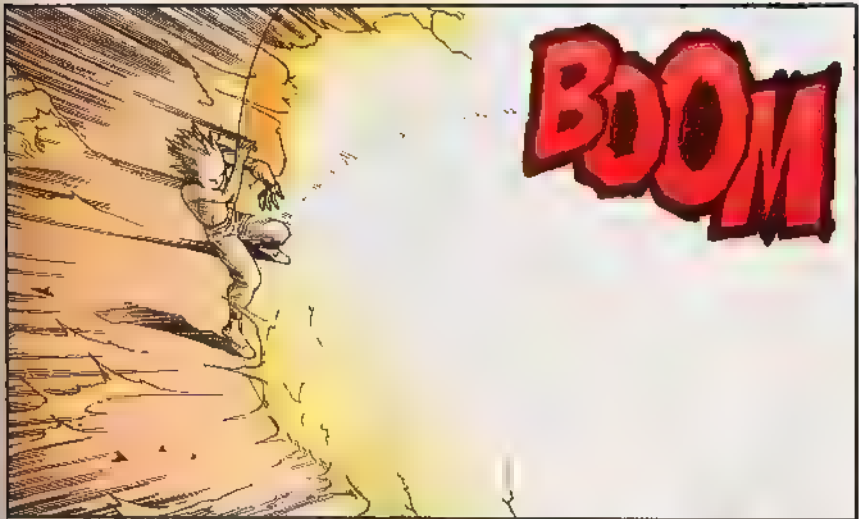
YOU
MUSTN'T YIELD
TO PANIC

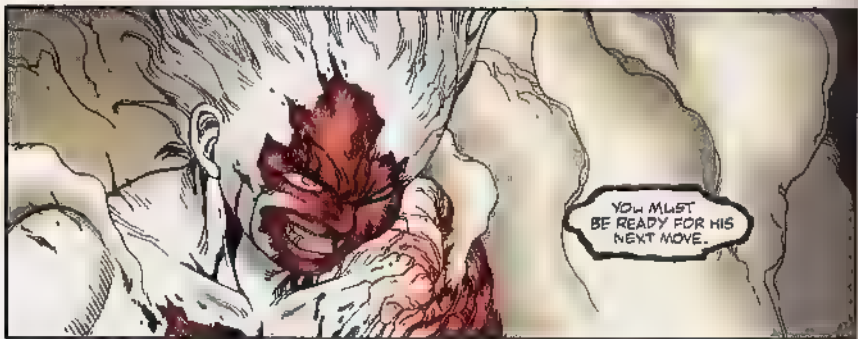
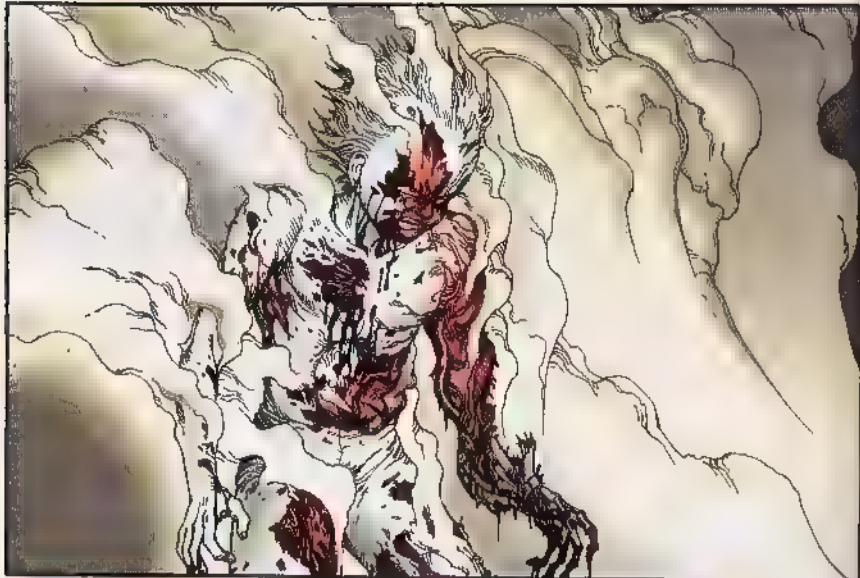


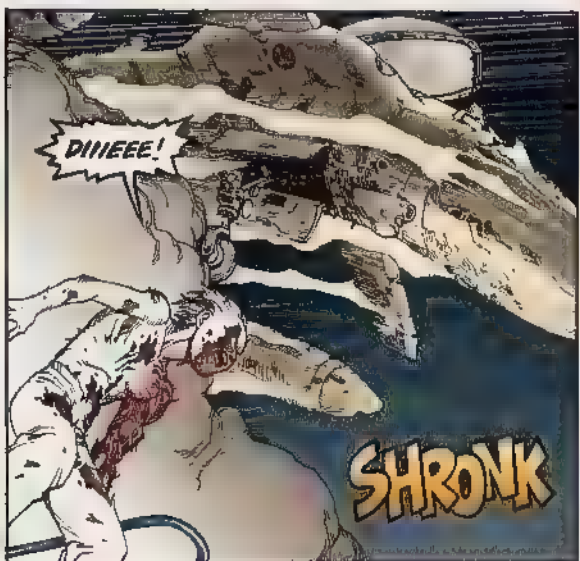
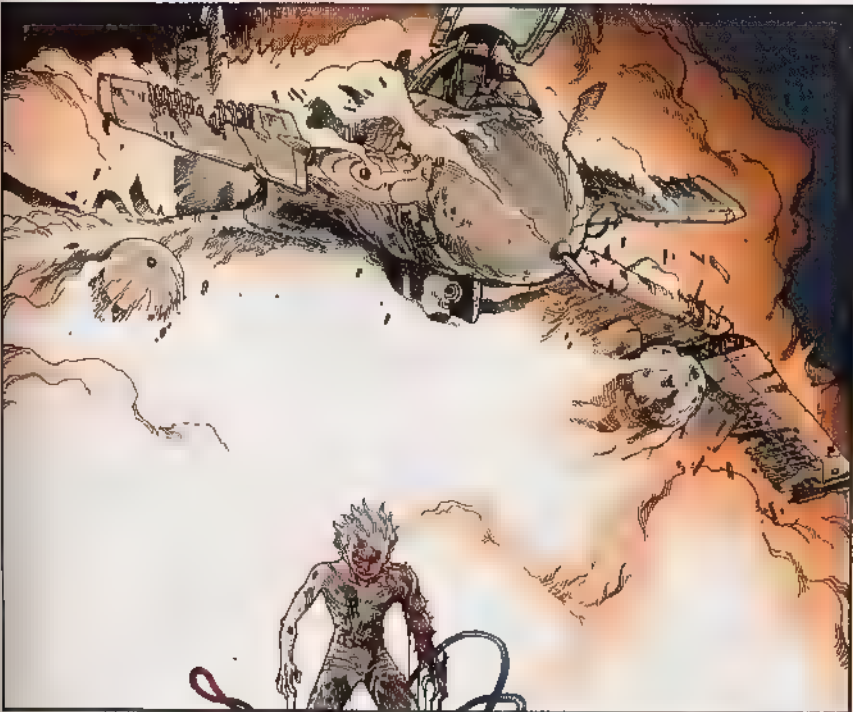
BETTER MOVE T.
THERE'S A MISSILE
HEADING YOUR
WAY.

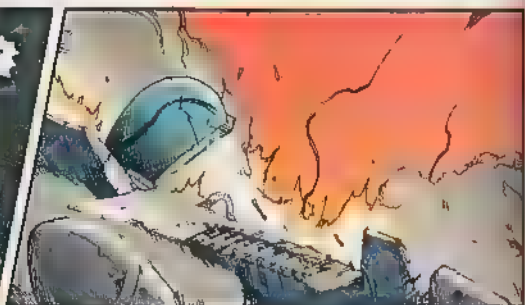
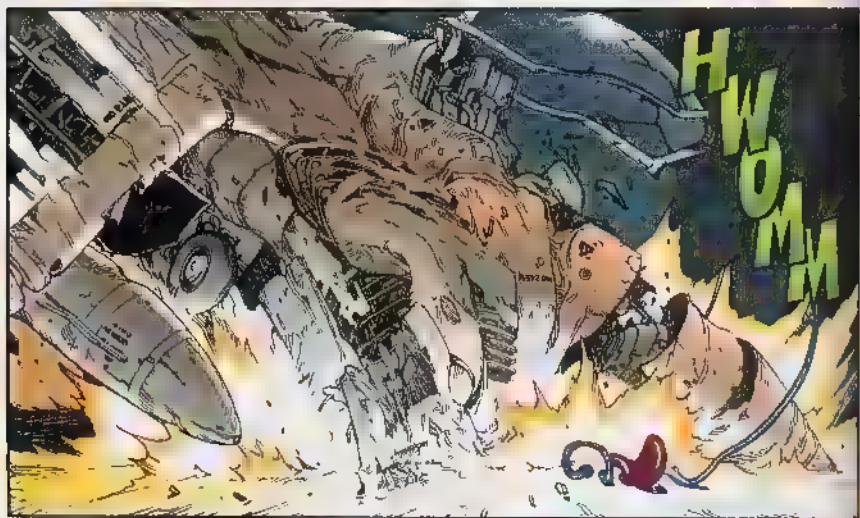
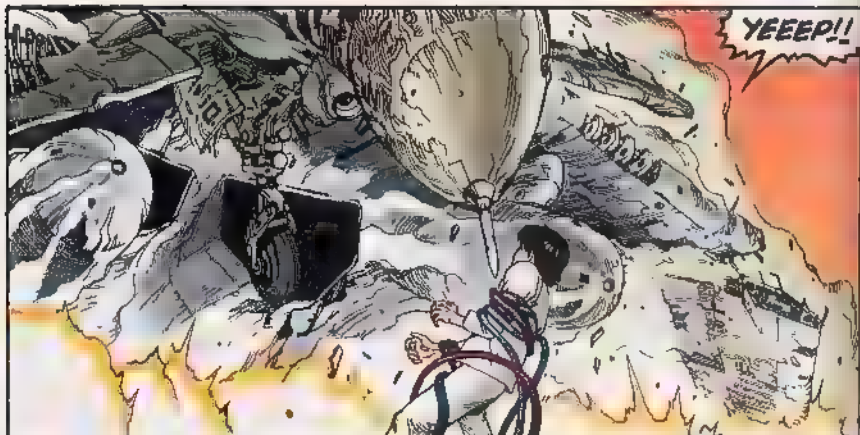


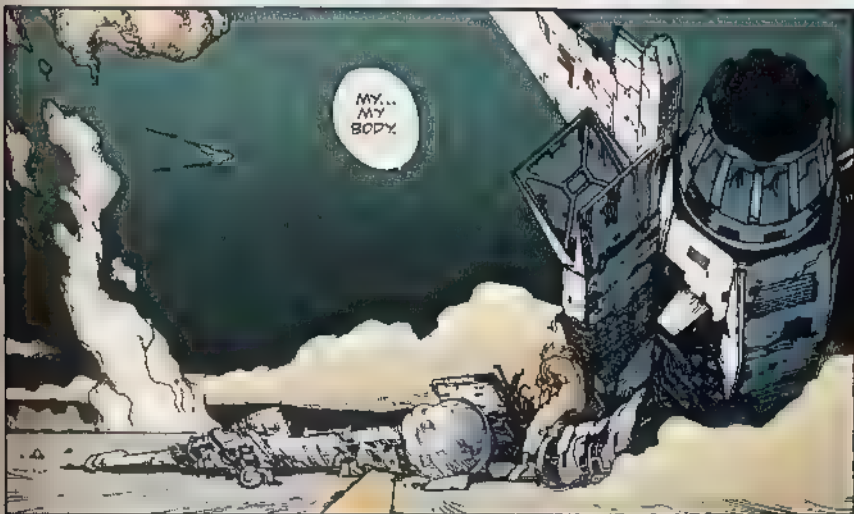
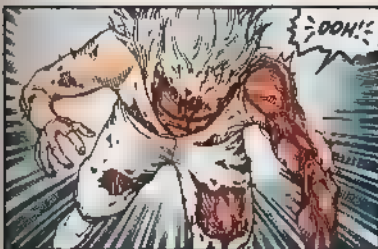
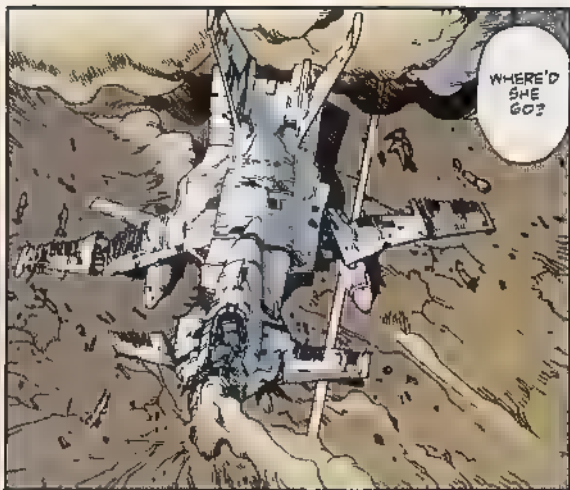


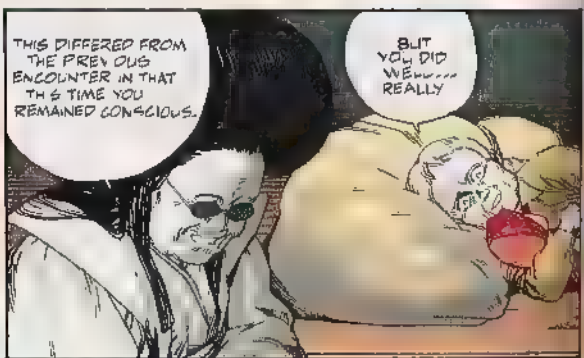
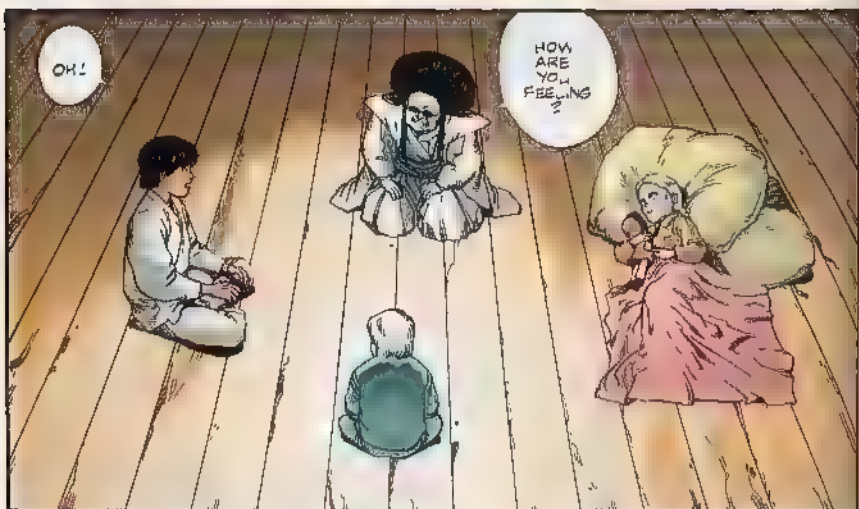
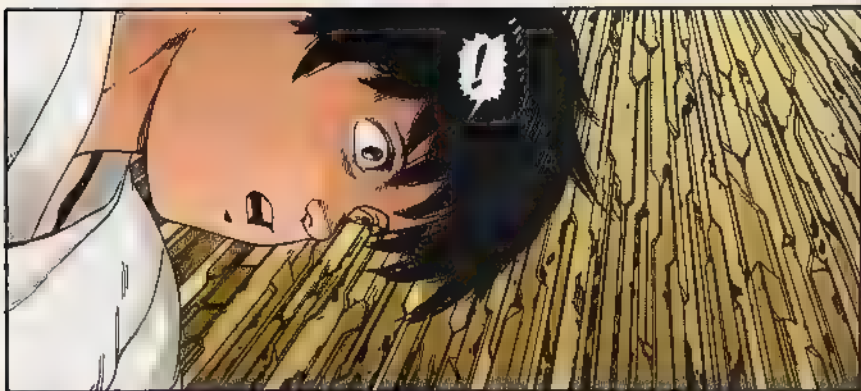












AND NOW WE KNOW
FIRSTHAND ABOUT
NUMBER 41'S
CONDITION.
THAT'S IM-
PORTANT.



I'M SORRY... I GOT
SO FLUSTERED...



SO MUCH
HAPPENED AT
ONCE..

I UNDERSTAND
COMPLETELY..



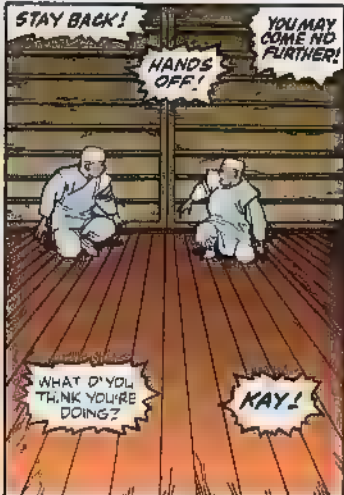
UNFORTUNATELY, WE
DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY
OF TRAINING TIME. YOU
MUST LEARN AS THE
BATTLE PROGRESSES



STAY BACK!

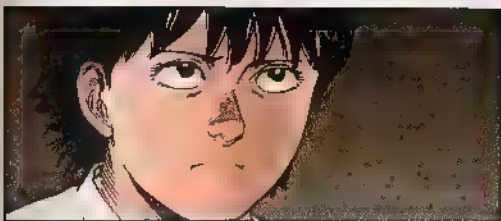
YOU MAY
COME NO
FURTHER!

HANDS
OFF!



WHAT DO YOU
THINK YOU'RE
DOING?

KAY!



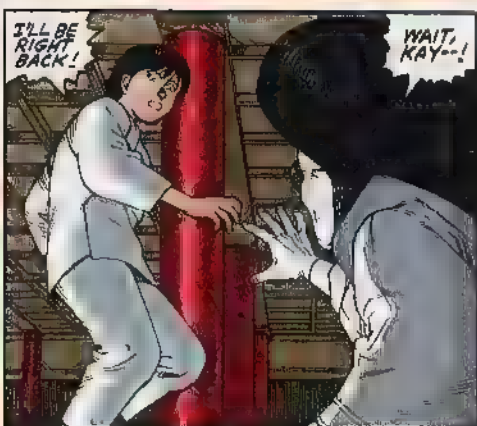
NOW WHAT?!

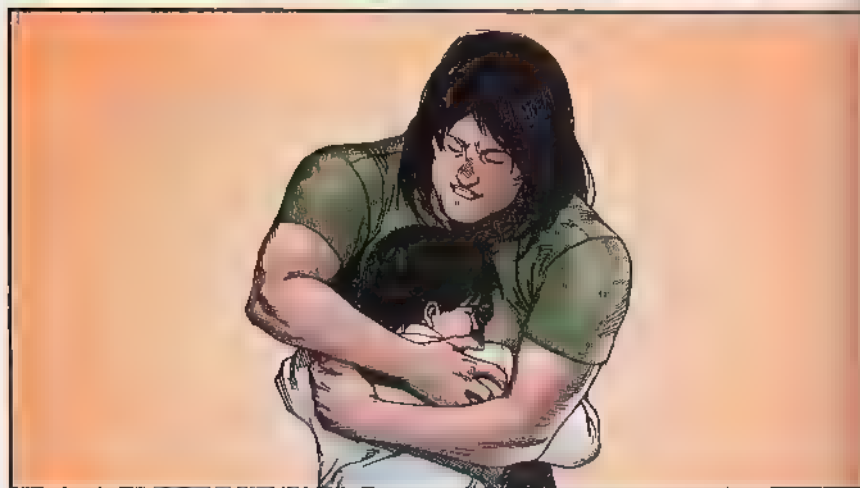
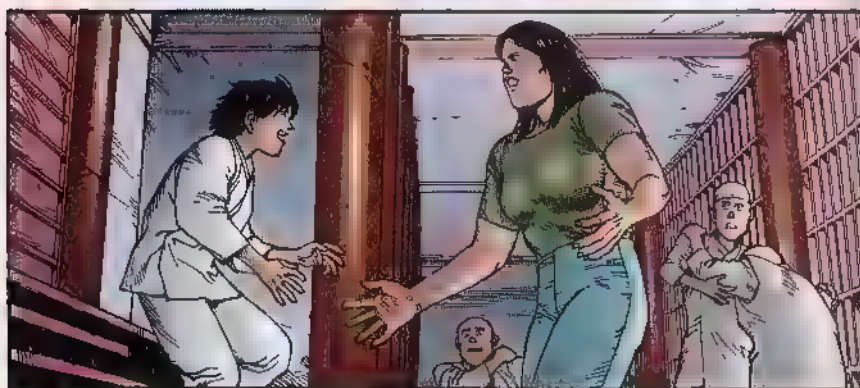
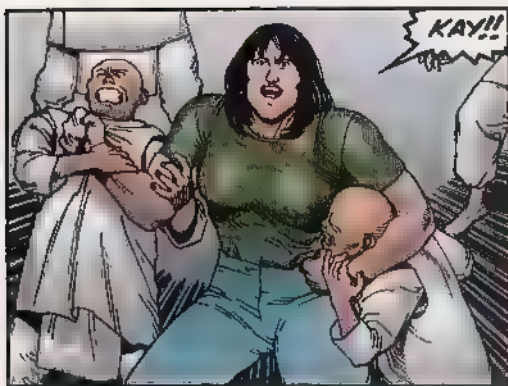
CHIYOKO?

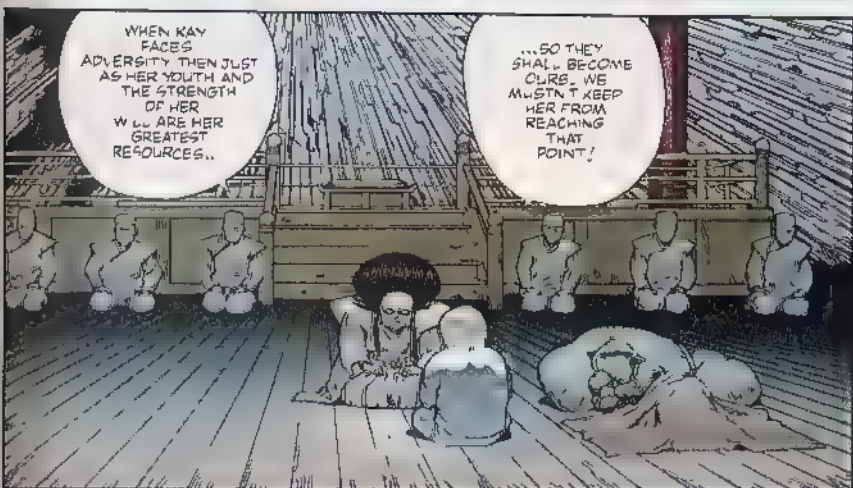
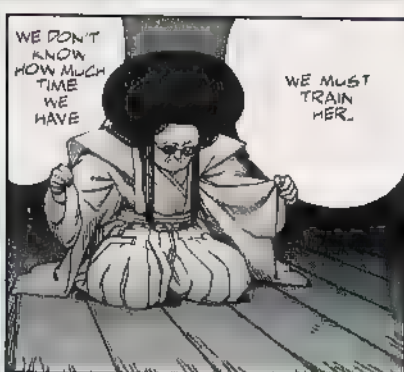
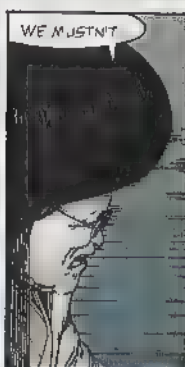
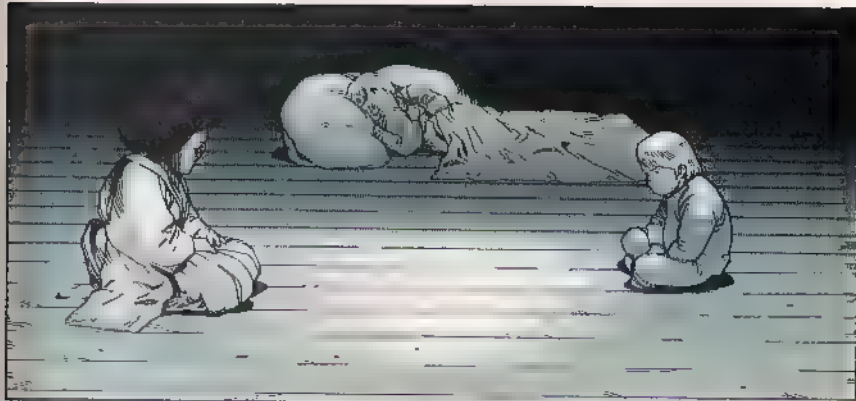


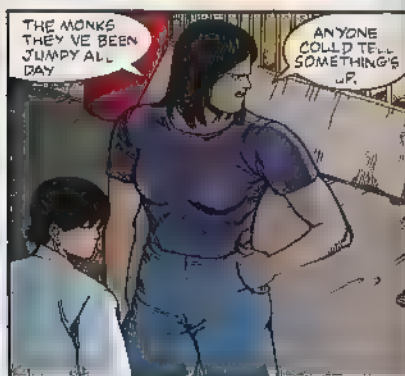
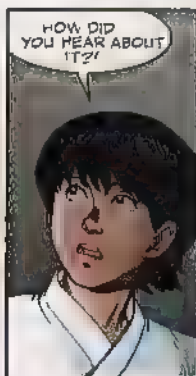
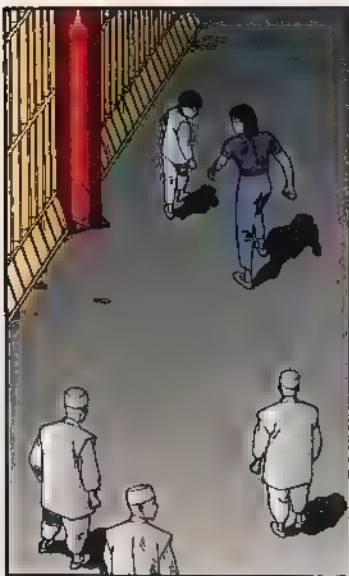
I'LL BE
RIGHT
BACK!

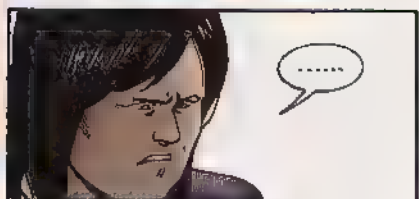
WAIT,
KAY--!

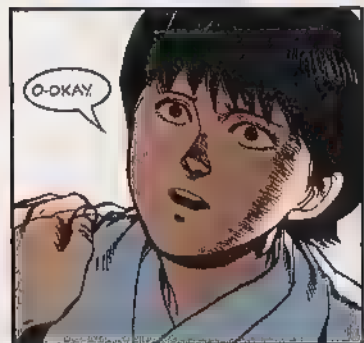
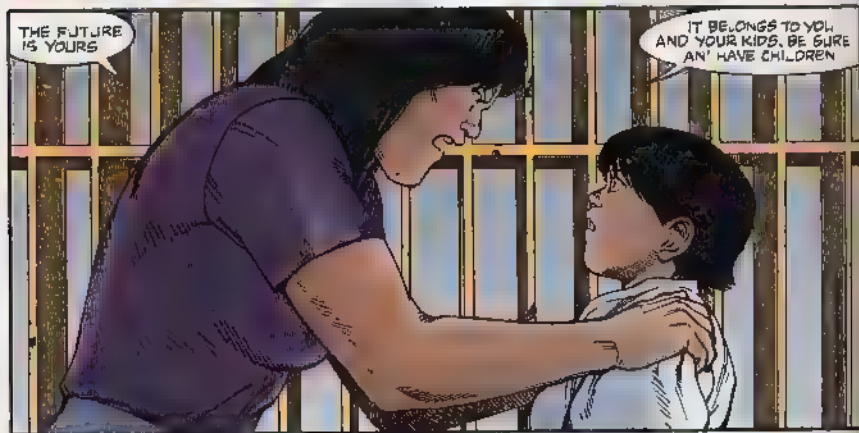




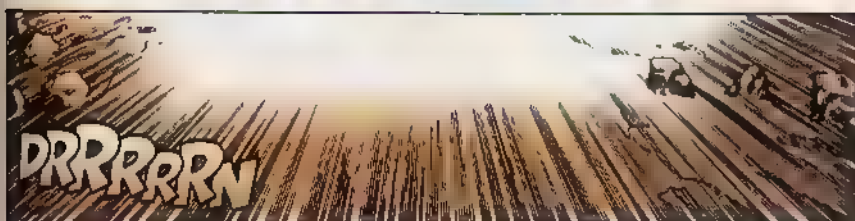




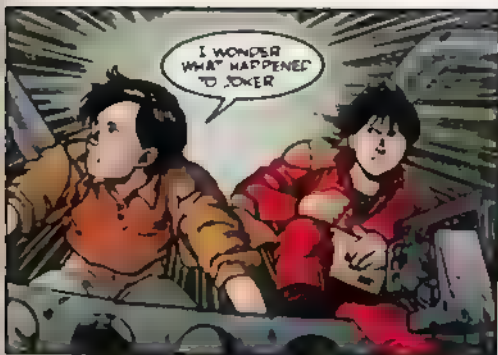


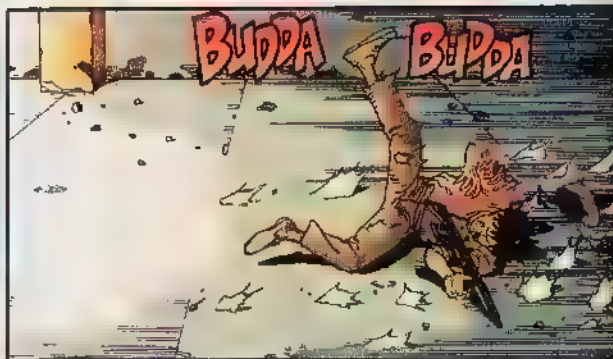
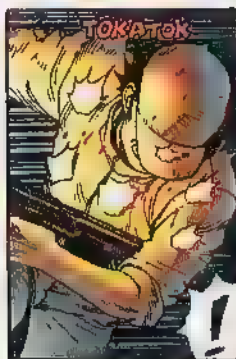


CHIYOKO...!

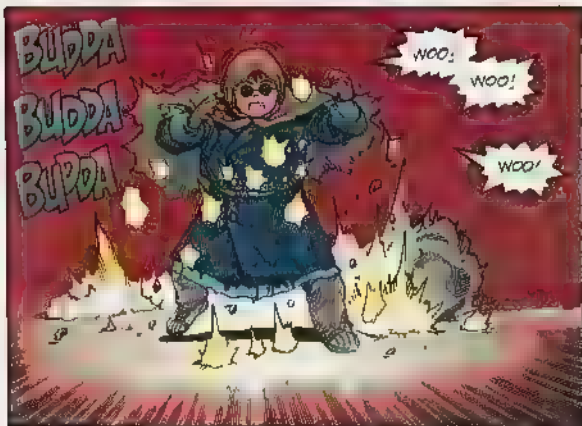
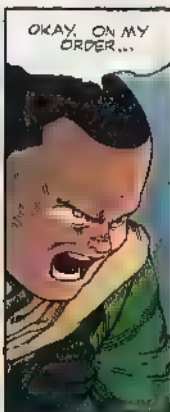
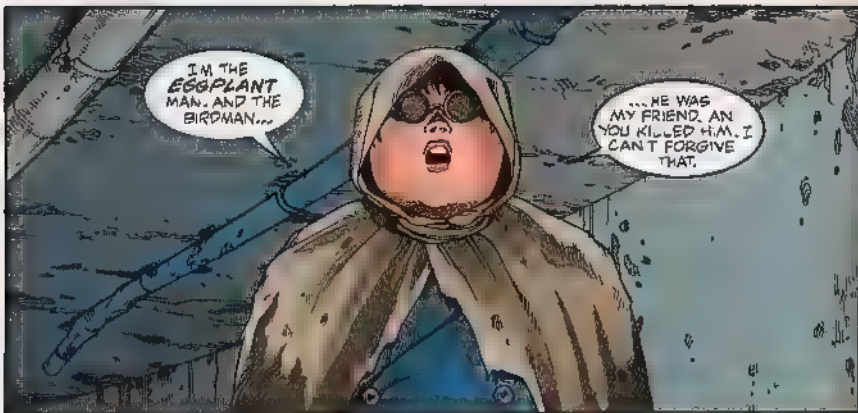


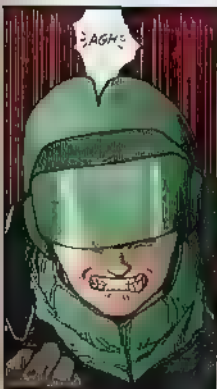
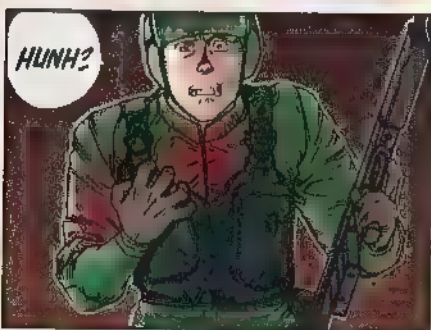
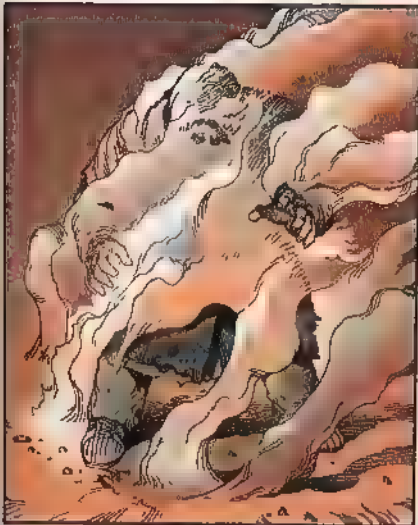






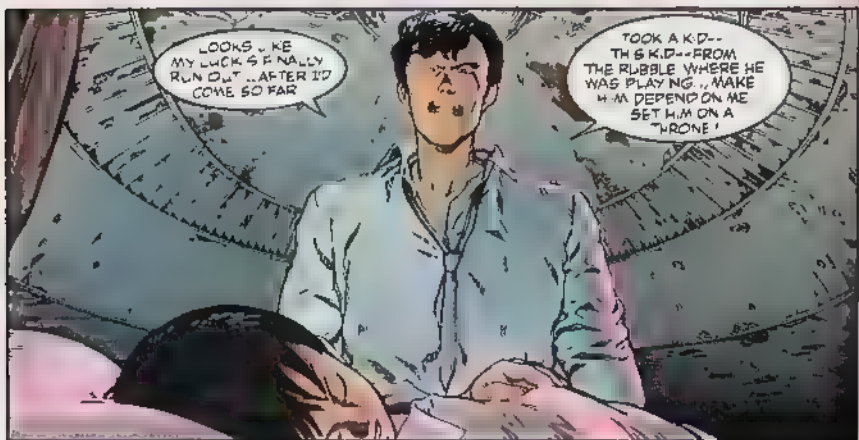
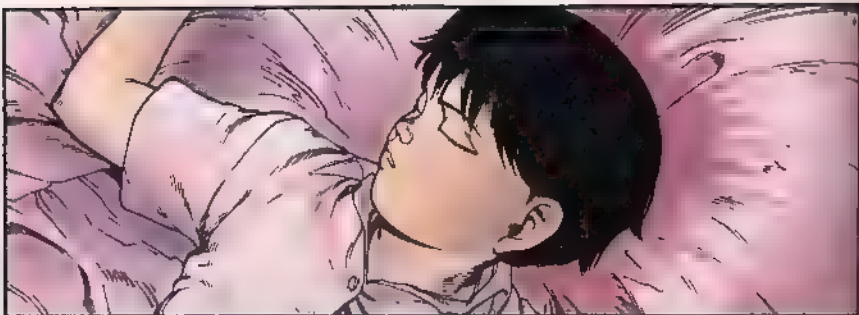


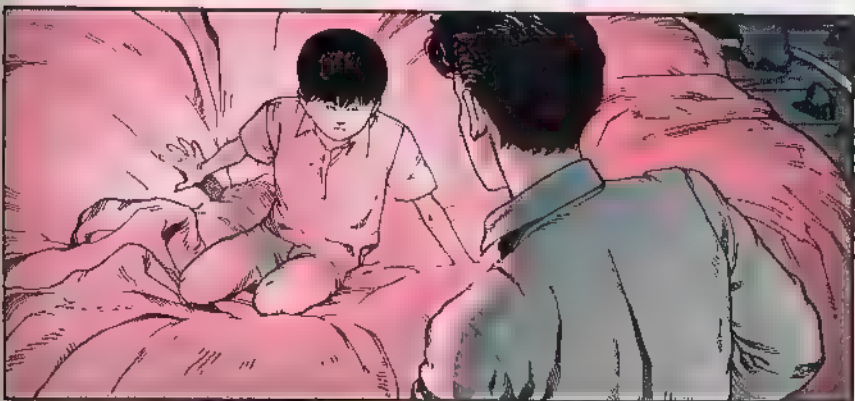
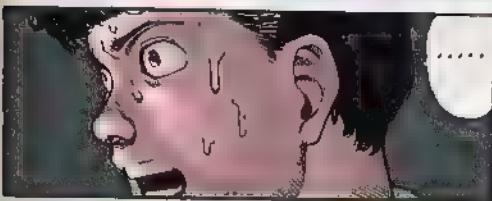
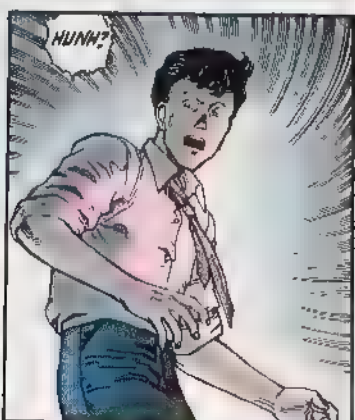
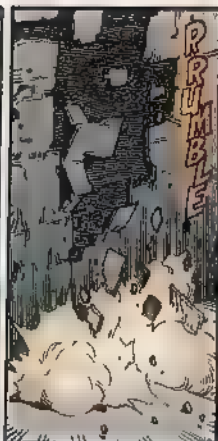
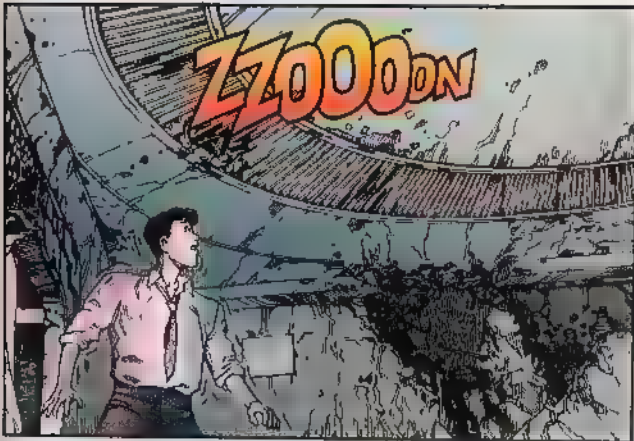


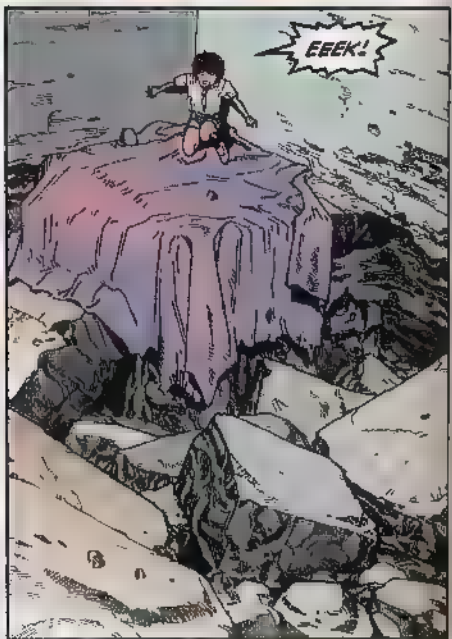
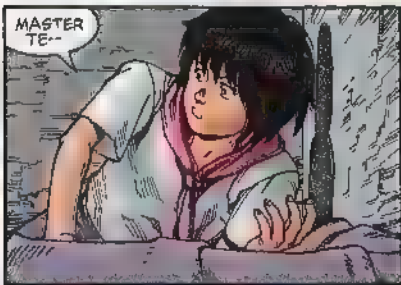
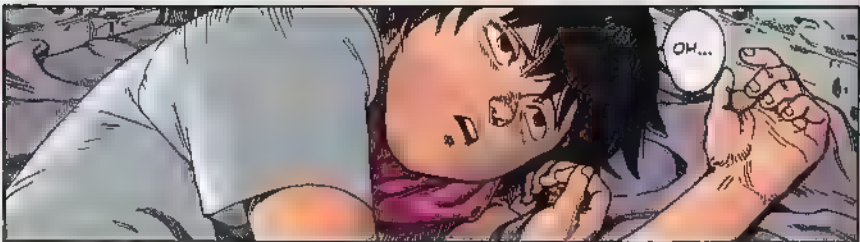
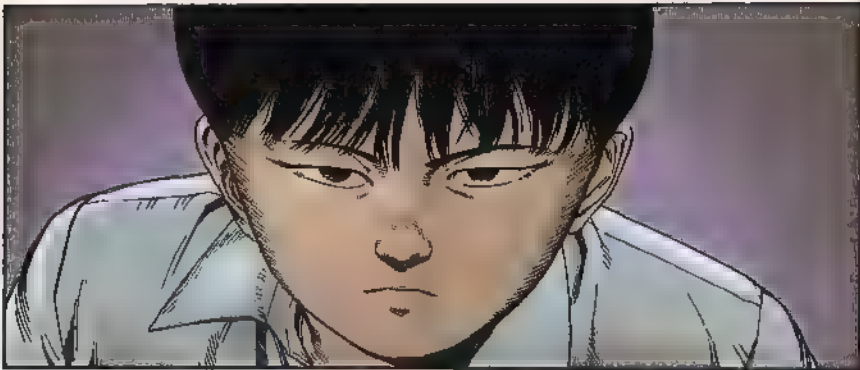


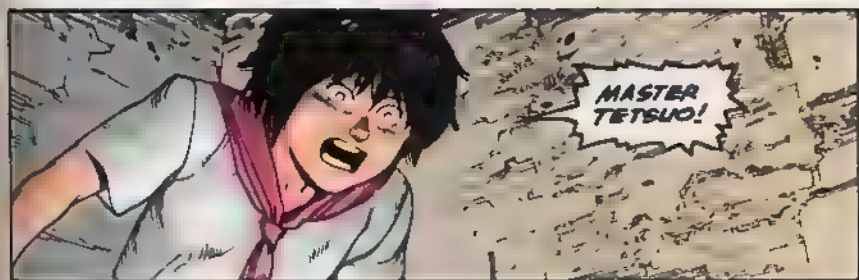
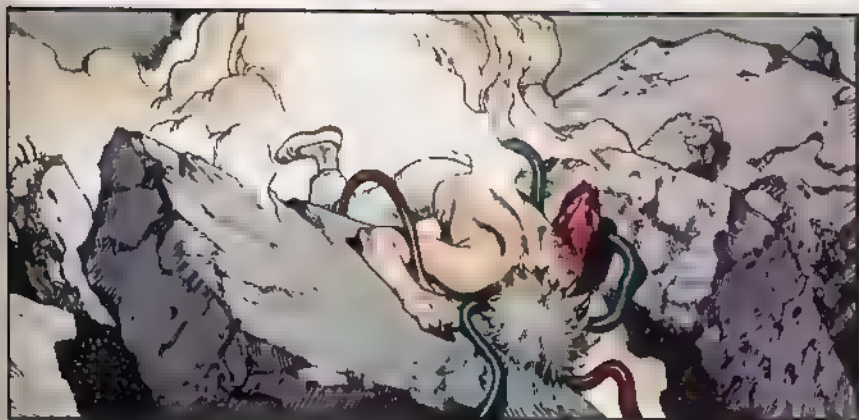
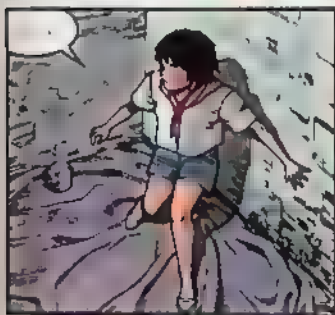
M-MY...
HEART!

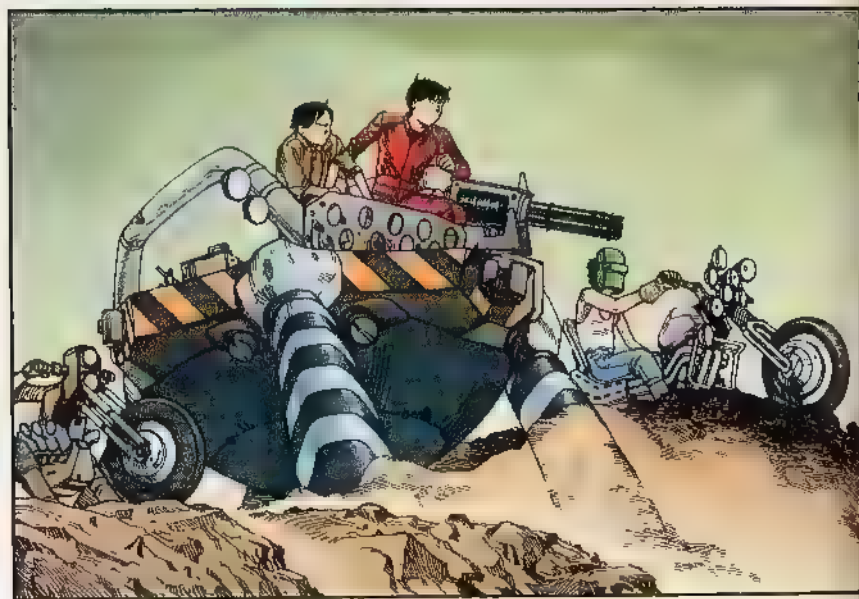
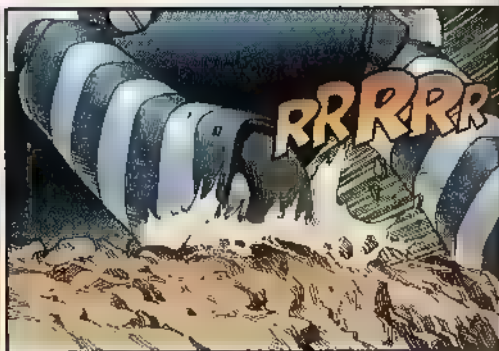
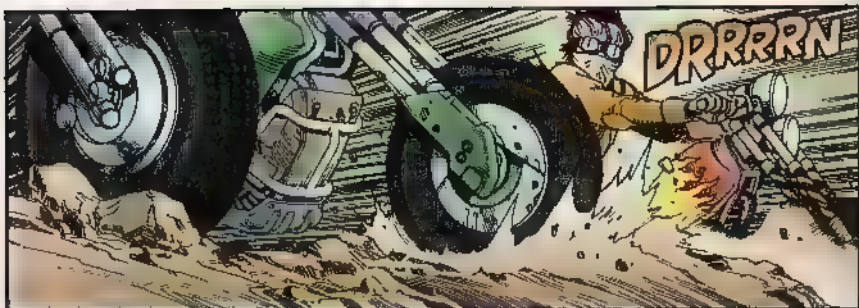


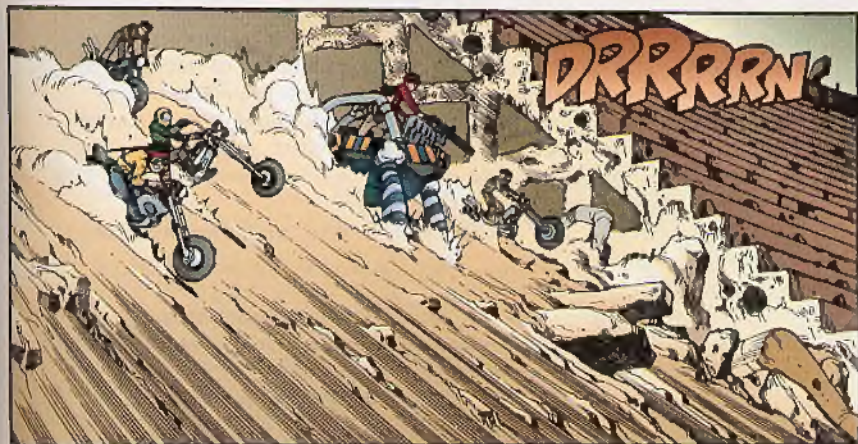
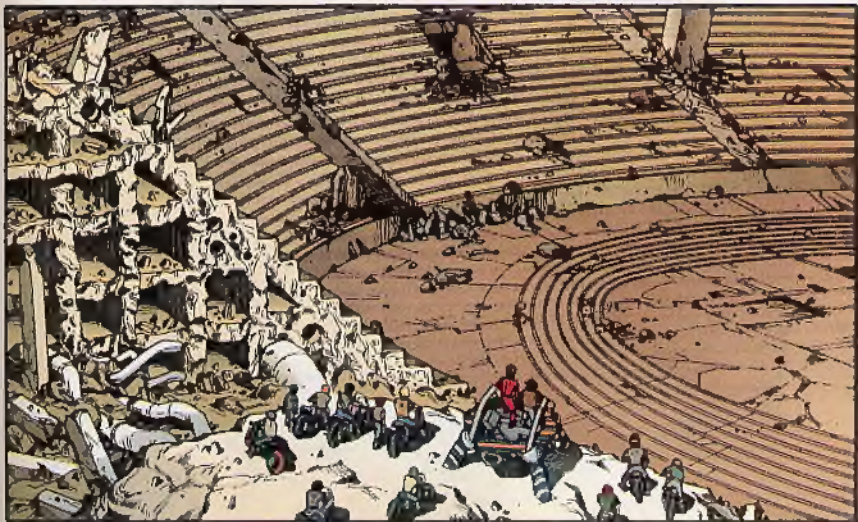




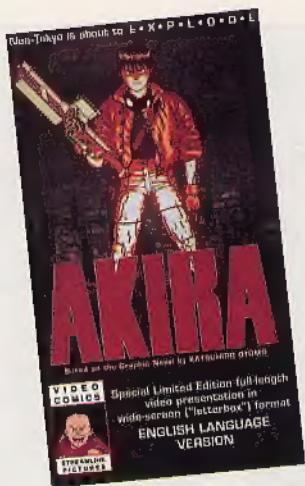








NEXT ISSUE: **STADIUM SHOW**



AKIRA: the movie AN UPDATE

Akira, the animated movie, opened around the U.S. and Canada last year and is currently enjoying a second run in many theaters. In addition, a second version of the film, in Japanese with subtitles instead of the commonly seen English-dubbed version, has played in New York.

The film has received acclaim from both critics and the movie-going public, and has spawned the release of two videocassettes and a soundtrack. One videocassette is English-dubbed version of **Akira** that was released by Streamline Pictures in January of this year on VHS. The other videocassette is the **Akira Production Report**. It contains information on the creation and production of the **Akira** film. The soundtrack is available in two formats on JVC compact disc. One soundtrack has dialogue, while the other is a "symphonic suite." It is a recording of the music only.

The "symphonic suite" CD comes with a 12-page English booklet containing articles written by Katsuhiro Otomo and musicians Shoji Yamashiro and Kayoko Ohinata.

In the booklet, the musicians discuss their approaches to the soundtrack and the various instruments they utilized. In addition, each track is discussed individually.

All three products are pictured above and are available in comic stores.

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chief assistant to Mr. Otomo

SATOSHI TAKABATAKE

assistant to Mr. Otomo

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Epic Comics

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english adaptation

STEVE OLIFF

with the

OLYOPTICS COMPUTER CREW

colonists

MICHAEL HIGGINS

with **LAURA BRADY**

letters

MAIE JAVINS

editor

CARL POTTS

executive editor

Things are not what they seem.

A massive warship transforms into an almost living thing, swallowing its crew and turning its terrible weapons of destruction against itself. A young boy named Tetsuo is horribly remade in flesh and mind by a power older than time. And an innocent girl named Kay plays host to a triumvirate of beings within her, wise and awesome forces that are the only hope of stopping the madness.

Things are not what they seem in Neo-Tokyo. . . as reality itself hangs by a thread. . .

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA

